

'Channel' deal signed Page 4

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Falls in Wall St.

Closing Prices Page 7

Israeli MIA said alive

Jerusalem Post Reporter

"At least one" of the three Israeli soldiers missing in action during the Lebanon War is reportedly alive and imprisoned by the Syrians, according to information received yesterday by relatives of the three missing men. The relatives are now being briefed in Paris.

The report, which came from Israel TV's correspondent in Paris, was based on meetings with top French officials who have received the relatives of Zecharya Baumel, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

Spokesmen for the IDF and the Foreign Ministry said they knew nothing of the report.

Histadrut forming link with S.A. black unions

By ROY ISACOWITZ
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. – A Histadrut delegation is currently visiting South Africa for the purposes of establishing permanent links with that country's black trade unionists, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

The delegation is scheduled to meet with leading figures in the new black trade union federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, including Cyril Ramaphosa, secretary of the powerful National Union of Miners.

The prime objective of the two-man delegation is to enlist a group of black trade unionists to attend a labour studies course in Israel at the Histadrut's Afro-Asian Institute.

The project will be financed by the Histadrut and a California-based organization, the Centre for Foreign Policy Options, headed by state senator Tom Hayden. The centre is sponsoring the delegation's trip to South Africa.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry, which maintains close links with the South African government, has given behind-the-scenes backing to the delegation's visit, including participation in expenses.



Sephardi Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu and Deputy Prime Minister David Levy are surrounded by media representatives at yesterday's ceremony in Hebron, during which the chief rabbi affixed a mezuza to the doorpost of Beit Hadassah. Report page 2. (Andre Brutmann)

Peres may see Murphy again on Europe trip

By YOSSI LEMPKOWICZ
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

THE HAGUE. – The U.S. has pressed King Hussein to drop the PLO from the Middle East peace process, and last night conveyed Jordan's answer to Prime Minister Shimon Peres in the Hague.

President Reagan's special Middle East envoy Richard Murphy met early yesterday with Peres for three hours, and left later for more talks in London with Hussein.

According to a Dutch newspaper, *Trouw*, the American negotiator told Hussein to deal with Palestinians acceptable to Israel instead of with the PLO.

Well-placed Israeli sources said there is a possibility that Murphy will see Peres again either in The Hague early today or in London. The sources said "more than half" of the problems related to the international forum for peace talks and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation have been solved.

The sources said the Palestinian problem would be a key issue in London during Peres's visit there, when he is expected to make an important speech to the Royal Institute for International Affairs.

According to the sources Hussein seems to be in a hurry to begin a peace process before Peres hands over the premiership to Vice Premier Yitzhak Shamir in October. The sources also stressed that Hussein appeared reconciled to not receiving an answer from PLO leader Yasser Arafat over recognition of UN Resolutions 242 and 338, which recognize Israel's right to exist.

Today Dutch TV is to broadcast a pre-taped interview with Peres in which he was asked if he would meet Hussein in London. The prime minister answered that the distance between Israel and Amman is shorter than between different districts of London.

Despite the brisk diplomatic activity, Peres's spokesman Uri Savir was anxious to dispel any impression that a breakthrough towards Middle East peace was imminent.

Savir said a further meeting between Peres and Murphy had not been scheduled but could take place when Peres is in London.

"I would not say there was urgency and I would not describe what is happening now as a shuttle," Savir told reporters. The talks with with Murphy had been an "in-depth overview" of current Middle East developments, he said.

Earlier, Peres himself tried to dampen speculation about a breakthrough, telling a news conference: "We have made some headway but there are still an important number of issues to be solved."

In Jerusalem, Western diplomatic sources said that Hussein had told Murphy in London that Jordan is "deeply disappointed" over Washington's linkage between progress in the diplomatic arena and arms for Jordan.

According to these sources, Peres has indicated he would be flexible on a Washington arms sale to Jordan, if Hussein made a significant move towards opening a public dialogue.

The sources said that, barring the unexpected, no Hussein-Peres meeting would be forthcoming in the coming days as a result of Murphy's movements between The Hague, where Peres is visiting, and London, where Hussein is on a private visit.

The sources, including a recent visitor to Amman, said that the Jordanians at times "seem more informed about Israeli political concerns than Israelis themselves," adding that there is a burgeoning interest in Israeli affairs in Jordanian academic circles.

According to one source, Hussein "is well aware of Peres's timetable problems," referring to the coalition rotation agreement ending Peres's premiership in the fall.

Pre-dawn talks at courthouse to avert strike by nurses

By RON JOURARD and JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporters

Nurses' leaders and their employers plunged into desperate pre-dawn discussions at the Jerusalem District Labour Court building as the Deputy Minister of Health pleaded with the court to defer its decision on issuing anti-strike orders to the nurses' union.

The nurses had called a nationwide walkout beginning today.

Justice officials, appearing before the three-man bench on behalf of the government and Kupat Holim, sought a court order banning the strike.

But Deputy Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almosliano persuaded the judges to call an adjournment close to two a.m., while the parties tried once more to resolve the crisis and stave off the strike without the need for judicial intervention.

Attorneys for the nurses argued that the district labour court had no jurisdiction over the issue.

The Health Ministry told the court that talks earlier in the night had failed.

It was clear from the nurses' leaders that if stay-at-work orders were eventually issued they would be obeyed.

The hearing was postponed five times during the day as the government tried to avert the strike through negotiations. The state attorney was to ask the court to order nurses at government hospitals, who account for 40 per cent of all nurses, to remain at their jobs.

Kupat Holim Clalit, the Histadrut's health fund, which employs most of the remaining nurses, joined the government's application at the last moment.

Earlier in the day, the Knesset Labour and Social Affairs, Committee, which deals with health matters urged the nurses not to walk out. The committee, headed by MK Ora Namir, called on the nurses to allow 45 days for talks with representatives of the Health and Finance Ministries, as well as with those of the Histadrut and the community hospitals. If the talks fail to produce a compromise, the dispute would then be submitted to arbitration. The committee proposed that the basis of the deliberations be the fact that nursing was designated by the government in 1979 as a "high-priority" profession regarding demands for wage increases and improved work conditions.

Health Minister Mordechai Gur, in the latest of a series of meetings with Nurses Union head Keremia Padan and her colleagues, warned that nurses were likely to lose their public support if they reverted to an all-out strike.

The Health Ministry has voiced its support of some of the nurses' demands. But having been obliged to abide by the government's wage freeze until the end of April, it is caught in a bind. Since the wages of doctors, other health professionals and many other sectors are linked to nurses' wages, the Treasury fears making an exception, no matter how greatly deserved.

The Health Ministry last night declined to disclose contingency plans for dealing with patients if a strike begins. But among the options, it was learned, were the hiring of private nurses for emergency care and the release of elective surgery cases from hospitals.



Ousted Lesotho premier, chief Leabua Jonathan. (AFP)

Army takes over in Lesotho coup

MASERU, Lesotho (AP). – Armed forces ousted Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan and installed their commander, Maj.-Gen. Justin Lekhanya, as head of a ruling military council yesterday, in an apparently bloodless coup that caused wild rejoicing in this poverty-stricken mountain kingdom.

Lesotho Radio told the nation of the coup and said King Moshoeshoe II remained head of state. The South African Press Association, based in neighbouring South Africa, reported that Jonathan was at his home near the capital.

Lesotho's 1.3 million people have long been divided over Jonathan's authoritarianism, his appeals for aid from communist countries and his confrontation with South Africa over the presence in Lesotho of African National Congress guerrillas.

South Africa, which surrounds Lesotho and controls its economy, imposed crippling delays on shipments across border posts three weeks ago in what South African officials said were searches for arms and guerrillas opposed to South Africa's government. Lesotho was reported down to a few days' petrol supply, despite rationing, and stocks of food and medicines were out.

(Background, Page 4)

Thousands flee Kampala battle

KAMPALA (Reuter). – Fighting between the military government and National Resistance Army guerrillas raged near Kampala yesterday and hundreds of people took refuge in churches and mosques.

Eyewitnesses said the NRA had stationed long-range artillery at Namusera, 15 kilometres southwest of Kampala, and were exchanging fire with government forces based at Lubya Hill.

Thousands of people have fled their homes since the fighting began last Friday and have taken shelter in Kampala's Roman Catholic and Protestant cathedrals, in mosques, and at the Makerere University campus on the edge of the capital.

The government and the NRA signed a peace agreement in Nairobi last month, but it has had little effect and each side blames the other for breaking the accord.

Tough steps must go on, Moda'i warns

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN
Post Knesset Reporter

"If we continue on the difficult road we have started on, if we continue to make the effort, if we continue to believe and to will it, 1986 will be the first year in the reconstruction of the Israel economy."

This was Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i's message yesterday as he presented the government's $21.6 billion budget for 1986/87.

Moda'i said: "If, heaven forbid, our hands weaken and we lose our faith, we shall slide back into the quagmire from which we extricated ourselves with such great effort."

In 1985, he said, it had been proven that the right planning and implementation, coupled with determination, could save the country from the abyss. "Let us prove that we can maintain the stability and start on growth."

After the minister's hour-long speech, Speaker Shlomo Hillel noted that Moda'i had not asked that the Finance Committee be authorized to begin its consideration of the draft budget even before it passed its first reading in the plenum.

See Budget coverage on pages 6 and 7

Moda'i said that wage policy in 1986 would have a decisive influence on the stability of prices. Then he turned to Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar and said: "Do you hear, Mr. Kessar? Wage policy in 1986 will have a decisive influence on the stability of prices."

According to all forecasts, real average net wages in April would be a few percentage points higher than in 1980, Moda'i said. Maintaining real wages at that level, raising them only in accordance with productivity, will also make it possible to maintain the stability of prices and ensure the value of the shekel, he argued.

At one point Victor Shemtov (Mapam) interrupted to ask how he explained the fact "that not a single minister with a portfolio" was present during the budget debate. (Only Minister-without-portfolio Ezer Weizman was seated at the cabinet table at the moment though Minister-without-Portfolio Yigael Hurvitz was also present most of the

(Continued on back page)

Budget of NIS 30,194b. presented

No early rise in living standards envisaged

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

The Gross National Product will not increase and standards of living will not rise in 1986, as the government seeks to consolidate the achievements of last year – stable prices and an improved balance of payments. These are the major trends implicit in the NIS 30,194 billion state budget proposal for 1986-87, presented to the Knesset yesterday.

The budget envisages the continuation of recent economic trends. It assumes a tough wage policy and fiscal restraint. This policy will in the coming months lead to higher bus fares and dearer bread and milk.

It will also mean that parents of children in school will have to pay the $60-120 education levy.

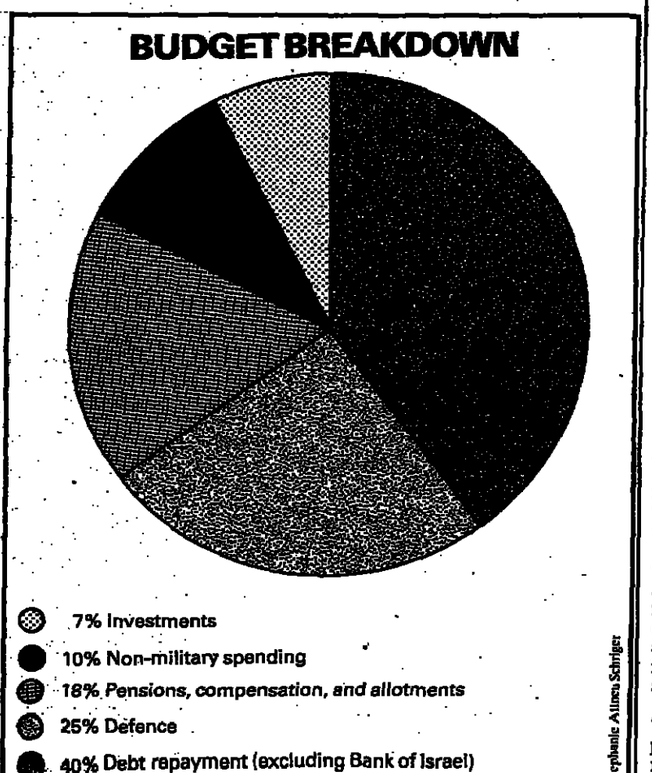
Lower old-age allowances from the National Insurance Institute and higher health fund fees will be other results of the budget cuts.

The tendency of last year's budget to let the public shoulder part of the burden of financing public and social services – is maintained by the proposed budget.

The heads of the Treasury, the Bank of Israel and the Economic Planning Authority yesterday also presented the National Budget – a document that contains the major economic forecasts for the coming year.

According to these forecasts the Gross National Production is to grow in 1986 by 1.5 to 2 per cent, the same rate as in 1985. Standards of living will not rise despite the considerable drop they suffered over the last two years.

(Continued on back page)



Peres suggests role for Europe in ending Mideast conflict

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

THE HAGUE. – Prime Minister Peres yesterday told his Dutch counterpart Ruud Lubbers that Europe can play as important a role in the Middle East conflict as it did in bringing Israel and Egypt together prior to the 1979 peace treaty.

Europe's role, he said, during a 45-minute private meeting, would be to facilitate direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbours.

Peres stressed that Israel's main objective is to prevent war and he expressed his conviction that the Arabs share the same aim.

"We are interested in a peaceful solution and we are ready for negotiations without preconditions with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation without the PLO," Peres was quoted as saying.

Peres pointed out that PLO chairman Yasser Arafat is still not answering U.S. and Jordanian calls to recognize Israel's right to exist. "What we need is to open negotiations in order to improve drastically the atmosphere in the area," said Peres.

The Peres-Lubbers meeting was followed by a two-hour working session between Dutch and Israeli delegations. On the Dutch side Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek and Defence Minister Jacob de Ruiter took part.

The discussion centred on cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the field of joint research and development projects in the Third World, and Israel's agricultural problems related to Spain and Portugal joining the EEC.

Peres thanked the Dutch government for its role in helping to improve the plight of Soviet Jews. Holland represents Israel's interests in Moscow.

In response to a reporter's question, Peres's spokesman Uri Savir said that Israel saw the opening of the gates of the Soviet Union to Soviet Jewry as more important than diplomatic relations with Moscow.

Savir added that such a move by the Kremlin would make a Soviet role in the Middle East peace process more acceptable.

Last night Peres attended a dinner given in his honour by the Lubbers's in the presence of Princess Margriet, sister of Queen Beatrix. The queen is currently on a state visit to India.

On Sunday evening, before meeting with U.S. envoy Richard Murphy, Peres devoted three hours to the Jewish community in Amsterdam. He laid a wreath at the monument for the Holocaust and attended a memorial service for the 80,000 Dutch Jews killed by the Nazis.

Afterwards he attended a meeting of Dutch Jewry, where 1,500 people welcomed him by shouting *Baruch Ha'ba*. The Dutch prime minister as well as Jewish-born Amsterdam Mayor Ed van Tijn were present.

In his speech Peres stressed the generosity and hospitality of Holland to the Jews. He mentioned the fact that Holland, the country which on Sunday hosted his meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez had been a shelter for Jews expelled from Spain and Portugal during the Inquisition.

Labour group sees budget as cause to fight rotation

By ROY ISACOWITZ
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. – Labour Party opposition to the new state budget, presented to the Knesset by Finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i yesterday, stems from more than just socio-economic concerns, according to well-placed Labour sources.

With Taba out of the way and King Hussein showing little inclination to enter peace negotiations, several Labour strategists have latched onto the economy as providing the likeliest excuse for a crisis that will bring down the government and prevent rotation.

The campaign to make a political stand over the economy is being organized by party Secretary-General Uzi Baram, Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar and Deputy Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-Oz. Their strongest opponents in the party are Prime Minister Peres and Deputy Finance Minister Adiel Amorai.

In recent weeks, Kessar has called for the dismantling of the government on the grounds that its economic policies are not in tune with Labour principles. Baram, too, has been outspoken in his opposition to rotation.

The Labour Knesset caucus has demanded extensive changes in the budget's financial allocations and additional measures, such as a capital gains tax, to equalize the economic burden.

Such changes are anathema to Moda'i and the Treasury. However, it is by no means certain that the differences between Moda'i and the anti-rotation force in Labour are sufficient to bring down the government.

Deadlocked Herut dodges decision on party convention date

By MICHAL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. – The date of Herut's party convention has still not been decided despite a central committee meeting last night.

An open rift between Vice Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon was narrowly avoided at the last moment when all the ministers joined in supporting a compromise proposal to postpone branch elections scheduled for tomorrow by three weeks, and to decide on the timing of the convention in two weeks' time. Until yesterday, the convention was scheduled for February 16.

Sharon accused the Labour Party of being determined to break up the government and hold early elections. Herut must therefore prepare for elections, he said.

At the opening of yesterday's meeting, Shamir, with Deputy Premier David Levy's agreement, proposed postponing both the convention and branch elections to an undetermined date.

Shamir said that party unity was vital, as "there are those who want quarrels and upheaval in Herut so that they can cause a revolution in the state and government."

He mentioned Taba, international pressure on Israel, and Labour Party "threats" to break up the government.

Postponing the convention would give Herut time to reach agreement and unity, he said.

Sharon strongly opposed Shamir's proposal and said that branch elections and the convention should take place as scheduled, along with talks to reach accord among party leaders.

Stating that he had rejected deals offering him anything he wanted in exchange for his support for various groups in Herut, Sharon said: "I made no alliance with anyone. I belong to no camps. There is no contest for the party leadership. Begin is the party's leader, although unfortunately he's not active. Shamir is our candidate, and that is not a matter to place before the convention."

Sharon then said that the political issues raised by Shamir have nothing to do with the party's convention or branch elections. "What are we? Children?" he asked. "Don't we know how to differentiate between a struggle in the branches and the national struggle? It is just not serious to say that if we don't postpone our elections, we won't be able to face Labour."

David Levy said he was against postponing the convention and elections, but Shamir had convinced him that it was necessary for party unity.

Minister-without-Portfolio Moshe Arens came out strongly against the postponement, saying the price of putting off the convention – which has not been held for seven years – would be greater than the price of holding it.



Acting Premier Shamir and Industry Minister Sharon at last night's Herut meeting. (Andre Brutmann)

The weather at major Swissair destinations

20.1.86

	MIN. C	MIN. F	MAX. C	MAX. F	
AMSTERDAM	4	39	10	50	Rain
BRUSSELS	2	36	9	48	Clear
BUENOS AIRES	13	55	25	77	Clear
CHICAGO	-1	30	2	36	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	-3	28	2	36	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	5	41	10	50	Rain
GENEVA	-1	30	10	50	Cloudy
HELSINKI	-20	-4	-10	14	Clear
HONG KONG	17	63	21	70	Clear
JOHANNESBURG	15	59	26	79	Rain
LISBON	5	41	14	57	Cloudy
LONDON	5	41	9	48	Clear
MADRID	-3	28	12	54	Cloudy
MONTREAL	2	36	3	37	Rain
NEW YORK	7	45	13	55	Clear
OSLO	-15	5	-11	12	Cloudy
PARIS	6	43	12	54	Clear
RIO DE JANEIRO	22	72	40	104	Clear
SAO PAULO	22	72	30	86	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	-11	12	-9	15	Cloudy
TOKYO	2	36	6	43	Cloudy
TORONTO	-4	25	3	37	Cloudy
VIENNA	-1	30	6	43	Clear
ZURICH	-5	23	3	37	Cloudy

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy, possibility of rain towards the evening in the north.

	Yesterday's Humidity	Yesterday's Min-Max	Today's Max
Jerusalem	—	—	10
Golan	—	—	11
Safad	—	—	9
Haifa Port	—	—	17
Tiberias	—	—	17
Nazareth	—	—	14
Afula	—	—	15
Shomron	—	—	13
Tel Aviv	—	—	17
B-G Airport	—	—	16
Jericho	—	—	20
Gaza	—	—	17
Beersheba	—	—	15
Eilat	—	—	20
Nahariya	—	—	17

ARRIVALS

Mr. A.B. Kramer and Dr. S. Levenberg, Joint Presidents of The Zionist Federation, Chairman Dr. Stephen J. Roth, Vice Chairman Martin Savitt and Dr. George Garai, General Secretary, for Va'ad Hapoel meetings in Jerusalem, on Sunday, January 26.

No pilots for UK ship

The Sea Officers Union yesterday morning ordered Ashdod port pilots not to serve the British ship Wendy for 24 hours. The action was directed against Agrexco, the fruit exporting company, for what the union says is its refusal to hire an Israeli ship to carry its produce.

King's birthday marked here; J'lem street named after him

By ROBERT ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israel yesterday joined the U.S. in celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, naming a street that is to turn through Jerusalem's Liberty Bell Park after the civil rights champion, and holding a special Knesset session in his honour.

At one level, the commemoration of King, who would have been 57 years old this year had he not been assassinated in 1968, was all about Israeli and American Jewish efforts to improve relations with the American black community. Some of Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign rhetoric, combined with Louis Farakhan's anti-Semitism, have aggravated relations between the two communities.

But at a deeper level, the fact that the celebrations coincided with a Knesset committee's completion of an anti-racism bill made the speeches and ceremonies seem part of the effort to exorcise anti-Arab racism here.

In the Knesset yesterday, Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsur touched most directly on the link – and brought Michael Eitan of Herut to heckle his speech with cries of "What's the connection?" Geula Cohen of Tehiya walked out of the Knesset plenum. The Labour Party minister said, "Their exists within our society a racist movement to which thousands of the state's citizens gave their support in the elections."

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, at the ceremonies dedicating Martin Luther King Street, also made the connection between King's dreams and struggles and what the mayor said were "the problems of every society, particularly a complicated society like ours, which is multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-religions and multi-lingual."

For Kollek, the street "will serve as a constant reminder" of the need to reiterate the commandment from Leviticus incribed on the park's Liberty Bell – "proclaim liberty throughout the land."

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, speaking at both the street-naming ceremony and at a formal reception in the Chagall Hall at the Knesset, dwelt on King's belief "that a threat to freedom anywhere is a threat to freedom everywhere." Like Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel, Shamir expressed the belief that, if King were alive today, he would be a strong friend of Israel.

Hillel said that King "on several occasions, expressed sorrow and disgust that, as a result of incitement and demagoguery, relations between Jews and blacks in the U.S. were being undermined. He appreciated the positive links between the two communities. In his view, this was a natural alliance, based on the shared experience and history of exile and discrimination, and jeopardized only by incitement, corruption and prejudice."

Few of the right-wing MKs were in the plenum for the speeches by Hillel and Tsur, while most of the Labour Party faction and the leftist parties were in attendance. Only five Likud MKs attended, compared to 20 Labour MKs.

But in the Chagall Hall, much of the diplomatic corps, led by U.S. chargé d'affaires, Robert Flatten – who read from King's letter from a Birmingham jail – heard two eloquent speeches by Abba Eban and Henry Kissinger. Both touched on those qualities in King and American democracy that, as Kissinger said, "made a symbiosis," that enabled the civil rights breakthroughs of the 1960s.

For some, said Eban, "history is biography," and great men like King "take the opportunity that presents itself" to change history. The opportunity, said Kissinger, was in the quality of American democracy that made possible the mass demonstrations and civil disobedience that brought the message of equal rights for all to the American people.

Reflecting on his own experiences in Nazi Germany, Kissinger said King struggled against the process that "begins with delegitimization and leads to extermination."

Black mayors Tom Bradley of Los Angeles and Andrew Young of Atlanta sent letters to Israeli officials congratulating Israel on joining the U.S. in honouring King, whose actual birthday was on January 15. (The U.S. government, however, set aside January 20 as the official holiday, giving King an honour shared only by George Washington and Abraham Lincoln – a day in his name.

There were no Arabs among the speakers.

But MK Abdel Wahab Darousha, attending the ceremonies in the Chagall Hall, commented privately to *The Jerusalem Post* on the coincidence between the King celebrations and the end of 14 months of deliberations on the anti-racism bill.

Darousha noted that the bill's wording deliberately avoids mentioning "discrimination," thus making it illegal, for example to announce that one refuses to rent an apartment to an Arab but legal not to rent one. He echoed Rabbi Alvin Sugarman of Atlanta, who represented King's hometown at the ceremonies and who worked with King in the 1960s.

Sugarman argued that King "never sought an anti-racism bill. He wanted a civil rights bill."

Asher Wallfish adds:

Interior Committee chairman Dov Shilansky boycotted the Knesset session, saying he had nothing against King, but was upset that the birthdays of Herzl, Jabotinsky, poet Chaim Nachman Bialik and writer Yosef Brenner had never been commemorated by the Knesset. Many non-Jews had helped the Jewish people without being honoured in the Knesset he complained.

"This is not logic. It's bootlicking," Shilansky said.

The Progressive List for Peace and the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality both complained that the 18 years since King's murder had been 18 years of oppression for the Palestinians.



U.S. charge d'affaires Robert Flatten dedicates Martin Luther King Street in Jerusalem's Liberty Bell Park yesterday as Teddy Kollek and Yitzhak Shamir look on. (Rahamim Israeli)

Levy launches plan for Jewish homes in Hebron

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT

HEBRON. – Sephardi Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu, resplendent in a long robe and a turban, said a short prayer and nailed a mezuza to the doorpost of Beit Hadassah here, thus ending the first stage of the construction of permanent homes for dozens of Jewish families in the heart of this Arab city.

Several hundred metres up the road, policemen directed Arab motorists to bypass the usually busy road in front of the building. Behind the police, armed soldiers manned a roadblock, while others were on rooftops surrounding Beit Hadassah.

Shortly before the ceremony, Rabbi Moshe Levinger walked about wishing everyone "mazal tov." In a way, it was his and his wife's victory. Miriam Levinger and several women had broken the ban on moving into Beit Hadassah when they defied the government and lived there several years ago.

But above all, it seemed to be a media event serving Deputy Prime Minister David Levy, whom settlers had criticized for not doing enough to further Jewish settlement here. Levy's office informed the press of the ceremony several days ago and arranged transportation for reporters who preferred not to make the journey on their own.

The deputy prime minister had a message for Prime Minister Peres, now in Europe. "We remind him from here that there will be no territorial concessions in Eretz Israel. We shall live here and will not budge." Raising his voice to a shout he declared:

"If in these days, a Jew who wraps himself in a prayer shawl on the Temple Mount is called a provocateur, then we are all provocateurs. This is *our* country."

Upon arrival, Levy warmly shook hands with Ze'ev Freedman, one of the members of the Jewish terrorist group who served a short prison sentence and now heads Hebron's Development Company. He put on a white skullcap for the ceremony and took over immediately afterwards, announcing to media representatives crowding around him: "Jews will live in Hebron."

Beit Hadassah is now quite different from what it was several years ago. Walls have been strengthened and two-and four-room apartments have been built for 11 families. Each of these apartments has central heating, two toilets, and built-in antenna sockets for radio and TV.

Other rooms have been set aside for a synagogue and a dormitory for pupils of the yeshiva at the nearby Beit Romano. Plans call for building modern, stone-fronted dwellings. The settlers have been living in old structures or in caravans.

In one of the rooms, Levy's staff hung maps and sketches of future work that includes refurbishing a floor at the adjacent Beit Hasson. When that is completed, two families will join the three already there, and a yeshiva will be opened there commemorating Rabbi Amram Ben Diwan, a 19th century Moroccan Jew.

The main project involves the "Jewish Courtyard," also known as the Avraham Avinu compound. Sa'adia Mandl, the architect who drew up the master plan, said it will include several houses similar to those in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City.

The plan, he said, is to build low-rise buildings which will blend in with the Arab structures in the area. Alleys are to connect it with the casba, and special arrangements will be made to protect settlers if Arabs attack them. The basic conception is that there be no visible difference between Jewish and Arab homes.

The Jewish Courtyard project should make it possible to house 11 more families there, in addition to the nine already there in caravans and an old house in which the Levingers live.

The two- to three-storey homes will cost some NIS 3 million, which makes them 20-25 per cent more expensive than similar structures elsewhere, Mandl said.



Israel Aircraft Industries engineers fit the first set of wings on a Lavi fighter fuselage. "This is an important landmark on the road towards the first flight of the Lavi," an IAF spokesman said yesterday.

Army disabled face reduced payments

Jerusalem Post Reporters

TEL AVIV. – The Defence Ministry is preparing a bill to reduce the number of disabled army veterans eligible for life-long cash payments.

The aim is to free resources to help those who really need the aid, the head of the ministry's rehabilitation department Arieh Fink said yesterday.

Fink said that payments to all recipients will increase on February 1.

Under present conditions veterans with disabilities of 10 per cent or more are entitled to some financial assistance.

Fink said the bill proposes that only those with 20 per cent disability or more will be entitled to life-long payments. The others will be eligible for life-long medical help and financial help for a maximum of three years.

People injured before the bill is passed will not be affected by the change, unless they accept a one-time payment to settle accounts, he said.

The Treasury has reportedly agreed to increase current payments to disabled veterans by close to one-third.

A 20 per cent increase is due to make up for the erosion in the value of current payments.

Fink said that people who have permanently lost their ability to work will get an increase of up to 55 per cent. The increases will total NIS 18 million but it is not clear who will pay for them, he said.

In Haifa recently the IDF's planning chief Aluf Aviahu Bin-Nun said 8 per cent of the defence budget is spent on pensions for invalid soldiers, widows and orphans of servicemen. The IDF is the only army in the world that shoulders this burden from its budget. Others pay through their national insurance.

"The amount is greater than the total budget of the intelligence corps or the navy and is the only allocation that unfortunately is growing even in peacetime," he said.

The planning chief revealed that the IDF is engaged in a "creative destruction" review of every facet of its activities, including the Lavi fighter-plane.

TV screens may black out soccer

By GREER FAY CASHMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Television technicians were unable to say yesterday whether coverage will be given this Saturday to local soccer games. A work-to-rule decision last Saturday adversely affected all news coverage.

This action was in retaliation against the Israel Broadcasting Authority's attempt to overturn a decision of the Jerusalem Labour Court in the National Labour Court. The Jerusalem court last week abrogated the IBA's suspension for misconduct of the chairman of the technicians staff committee, Hezy Koka. Persuaded by the attorney-general's office that the Jerusalem court had exceeded its jurisdiction, the IBA appealed to the national court against the injunction.

At a hearing yesterday, a compromise was reached between the Histadrut and the IBA whereby the repeal of Koka's suspension would be upheld, but he would go on paid leave until litigation is over.

Koka is slated to appear on Friday before an IBA disciplinary tribunal.

Oppose extremists, Herzog tells Wizo

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. – President Chaim Herzog last night called on Wizo members to oppose those who want to deprive the country's minorities of their rights.

Speaking at the opening of the 19th World Wizo conference at the Tel Aviv Hilton, the president said these elements contradict the spirit of the Declaration of Independence and also endanger Jewish minorities in other countries.

Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat presented Wizo president Raya Jaglom with the freedom of the city in recognition of her 45 years of service to the organization and to Tel Aviv.

The conference is being attended by over 700 delegates from 36 countries and will last for a week.

'No unlicensed building on Temple Mount'

By ASHER WALLFISH

Jerusalem city building inspectors have checked allegations about unlicensed construction work on the Temple Mount and found no basis for the charges, the Knesset Interior Committee was told yesterday.

Aharon Sarig, the director-general of the Jerusalem City Council, told the committee that workmen had carried out plastering and painting work in Solomon's Stables, and paving jobs close to the Golden Gate. Work of that sort does not require a building permit, he said.

Sarig said he knew of nothing to substantiate allegations that the Moslems had built new prayer pulpits on the Temple Mount during the past year.

In reply to a question from committee chairman Dov Shilansky, Sarig said that should it emerge that the memorial on the mount to the dead of the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps had been constructed illegally, he would propose the matter be referred to the Committee of Ministers on Jerusalem, since the issue was a sensitive one.

The memorial, which has aroused the ire of Kach, Tehiya, and the Temple Mount activists, takes the form of a low stone bench or *mastaba* with a few words inscribed.

Police Inspector-General David Kraus told the committee that the force operates on the Temple Mount on the basis of arrangements shaped by Supreme Court rulings and cabinet decisions.

Kraus said: "These arrangements have proved themselves in practice.

"In the wake of a High Court ruling, the police do not permit Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount. But if an individual Jew wants to pray, he can do so, as long as his prayer does not take demonstrative form."

Replying to Shilansky, Kraus said: "The police do not take orders from Wafk (Moslem Trust) guards. They act in accordance with the law. But they do not intervene in religious issues."

Another speaker, deputy attorney-general Yoram Bar-Sela, told the panel: "The laws of the State of Israel, including the Building and Planning law, and the Antiquities law, are all in force on the Temple Mount."

Extradition action for bank manager

By BARBARA AMOUYAL

Police are expected to ask the attorney-general today to start extradition proceedings against Moshe Stern, who is suspected of embezzling $10 million from the North American Bank.

Stern, arrested on Sunday at a yeshiva in Versailles, worked as the Jerusalem branch manager for the bank and sat on the board. He is also suspected of embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars from several Jerusalem yeshivas that retained him as a financial consultant.

Stern left Israel and his family on August 14, 1985 – two days before the Bank of Israel discovered that huge sums were missing from North American Bank reserves. By the time the central bank inspectors turned to the police fraud squad, Stern's whereabouts were unknown.

Police are expected to submit the file on the investigation of the North American Bank, in which Stern figures prominently, to the Justice Ministry within the next few days.

Stern reportedly spent three months in the New York suburb of Boro Park before going to Europe. Police alerted Interpol, which discovered that Stern arrived in France less than a week ago.

French police and Interpol traced Stern to a small yeshiva near Versailles and Israeli police were immediately informed. An Israeli police officer was dispatched from national headquarters last Thursday to observe Stern's arrest by French police.

Police want to charge Stern with theft, breach of trust, and falsification of official documents in the transfer of North American Bank funds to "Jerusalem-America," Stern's private financial consulting company.

Former North American Bank managing director Hadassah Monsah and former bank chairman Yehoshua Halperin, as well as the heads of several Jerusalem yeshivas, are slated to testify against Stern.

Monsah was arrested on September 10, 1985 on suspicion of involvement in the multi-million dollar fraud. She was released a week later on bail. Halperin was questioned briefly by police and released.

Details concerning Stern's alleged embezzlement are still unclear. Police suspect that Monsah and high-level North American Bank officials knew of Stern's alleged fraud months before it was uncovered. Monsah and her colleagues failed to report Stern's suspected crimes to police after Stern threatened to commit suicide, according to one police source.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Teachers threaten strike over retirement

TEL AVIV. – The Histadrut Teachers Union plans to declare a labour dispute at the end of this month, and will consider sanctions up to and including a general strike if the Education Ministry does not set up a committee on early retirement by then.

Union leaders say Education Minister Yitzhak Navon promised that such a committee would be set up in December 1985, but nothing has been done.

The union wants optional early retirement to be used as a way of avoiding dismissals. *L.L.*

Nauseating insecticide

BEERSHEBA. – The Makhteshim Chemical Works here has stopped producing and storing Cotnion, a foul-smelling and nausea-inducing insecticide used on cotton, Beersheba Mayor Eliahu Navi said yesterday. The plant that makes Cotnion was closed on January 1 after a five-year battle between the factory and the local authorities.

Navi added that the Health Ministry has given Makhteshim three more months to draft a plan for treating its dangerous fluid wastes here.

The wastes are still accumulating in the Beersheba wadi. *L.M.*

Belly-dancer for elderly

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. – A belly-dancer and Eastern-style singers will entertain 50 poor senior citizens on Tu B'Shvat (next Sunday) at a Tel Aviv restaurant.

The event is being sponsored by the *Ta'am Tov* (Good Taste) restaurant on Rehov Allenby, whose owners, Rahel and Hilik Ben-Zvi, have "adopted" the elderly of the city's Shapira Quarter. Belly-dancer Jasmin and "cassette singers" Moshe Giat, Shalom Hillel and Aharon Menahem are donating their talents. M.M.

Double education fee

A Haifa man has paid an extra education levy of $60 for a poor family from a development town.

The man, a father of two high-school pupils, made the contribution in a letter that Education Minister Yitzhak Navon received this week. The man, who asked to remain anonymous, declared that the hard economic times warrant the levy.

Policeman attacked by convicted men's families

KFAR SAVA (Itim). – A policeman was wounded and required hospitalization and a court clerk was scratched in the face in the local magistrates court yesterday when the families of two convicted burglars went berserk in the courtroom.

The disturbance occurred when the judge sentenced Efraim Ben-Yakar and Amos Mesilati to prison terms for burgling factories and schools in the Sharon area. Ben-Yakar was sentenced to four years' imprisonment, and Mesilati received a three-year sentence.

Prosecuting attorney Miri Diskin said: "The Mesilatis spat at me, threw the court files at me, and tore up the district attorney's file, scattering the pieces around the courtroom.

BIRDS. – A concert on birds in music, marking Tu Bishvat and Nature Preservation Week, is to be given at the Bach Centre at 63 Rehov Pinhas in Tel Aviv this Saturday at 8.30 p.m.

With deep sorrow, we announce the death of our dear mother, my sister and our grandmother

ROSEL KUCK

The funeral will leave the Municipal Funeral Parlour, 5 Daphna Street, Tel Aviv, at 2.30 p.m. today, January 21, 1986, for the Southern Cemetery between Holon and Bat Yam.

Transport will be provided for mourners.

Son and daughter-in-law: Avigdor and Ruth Kuck
Sister: Paula and Shimon Bochner
Grandchildren: Nily, Daphna and Yuval

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of my beloved husband, our father and grandfather

Dr. HANS JOCHANAN ROMAN

For details on the funeral, contact (03) 320968 or (03) 310660

His wife: Lotte Roman
His sons: Michael and Ilana Yadin and Dita Jonny and Orly
His grandsons: Tal, Dan and Gili

Please refrain from condolence visits.

On the first anniversary of the death of our beloved

GERSHON MELBER ז"ל

a memorial service will be held at the Har Hamenuhot Cemetery, Jerusalem, on Friday, January 24, 1986 at 11.30 a.m.
We shall meet at the entrance of the Cemetery.

The family.

On the thirtieth day of the passing of our dear

HARRY MARKOVITZ ז"ל

a memorial service and tombstone unveiling will be held at 3.30 p.m. on Thursday, January 23, 1986.

We shall meet at the main gate of the Kfar Samir Cemetery at 3.15 p.m.

The family

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

ROSIE (Shoshana) EL-ROI

We will all miss her.

Funeral on Tuesday, January 21, 1986, at 2 p.m. Old Cemetery, Ramat Hasharon.

The Jocum and Friedlander Families and Friends

Majority building up to back press law

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Reporter

Though some Knesset members express strong views against the proposal, now before a cabinet committee, to restrict publication of suspects' names, others are just as strongly for it, and it appears that a parliamentary majority is building up for such legislation.

In the Likud, all the voices heard so far advocate government restrictions on the media, and Sara Doron of the Liberals (currently Likud chairman) says there seems to be no alternative to legislation.

Doron told *The Jerusalem Post*: "The choice before the media is very simple. Either the media impose restrictions on themselves to withhold publication of suspects' names for a period of time, or the Knesset must pass a law to secure those same restrictions."

She said that, while she preferred to see a free press disciplining itself, the present state of affairs was intolerable and could not continue much longer.

"I shall throw my energies into legislation if the media do not keep themselves in check, and I predict that the Knesset will pass legislation with an easy majority.

"It's high time that the media began to look at both sides of the question: their own interests on one hand, and the interests of the people they write and broadcast about, on the other," Doron said. Media reports most affect the good name of public figures, since the media concentrate mainly on them, and rarely bother with the ordinary person, she held.

In addition to favouring the Justice Ministry's proposal to withhold publication of suspects' names till either 30 days have elapsed or the suspects are charged, Doron has wide-ranging views about the work of the media:

"Journalists go around collecting bits of information about public figures, since they know the public wants to hear about them. They have all manner of sources. Even if they come to a source like myself, whom they may consider impeccable, for the sake of argument, they must not shirk the professional obligation of checking with the person about whom I gave them information. But how often do they do that?"

She sees yet another culprit: the police.

"I simply don't trust the claims of the very top men in the police that most leaks about arrests and investigations and suspects do not originate from inside the police at some level or other.

"It is my understanding that echelons of the police close to an actual investigation leak carefully selected facts, because in their experience the leaks, once published, bring in information from all sorts of people – some of which proves useful in the further pursuit of their investigation," she said.

"Journalists whom I trust told me this as a fact, and after all, who knows better than journalists themselves where they get their information from?

"I would like to make a public issue about this business of leaks from police sources. I believe that the state comptroller and the attorney-general, each in his own sphere, should probe this matter thoroughly."

Another side of the question, she indicated, was the professional level of journalists: "I wonder whether the proliferation of small local newspapers, which has led to a great increase in the number of working journalists, has perhaps detracted from the standing, the dignity and the good reputation of the journalistic profession.

"There was a time when it was a great thing to be a journalist. But what is it nowadays? It's said that when a person nowadays declares that he's a journalist, people look at him or her differently, or shall I say peculiarly? If that's so, it's a problem. But it's the problem of your profession and I have no advice for you."

The moral dilemma of a nurse

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The nurses caring for premature babies smaller than a one-kilo package of sugar and attached to respirators and heart monitors at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital usually can't take time out for a sandwich.

So striking and leaving these babies with no-one to care for them is out of the question, they say.

Adina Dorembus, who works a 40-hour week, including Shabbat and nights, and who earns NIS 450 a month, was praying yesterday that she would be among those ordered by the labour court to remain at work. She was relieved when the hospital's rabbi ruled that she and her fellow preemie-ward nurses must not strike.

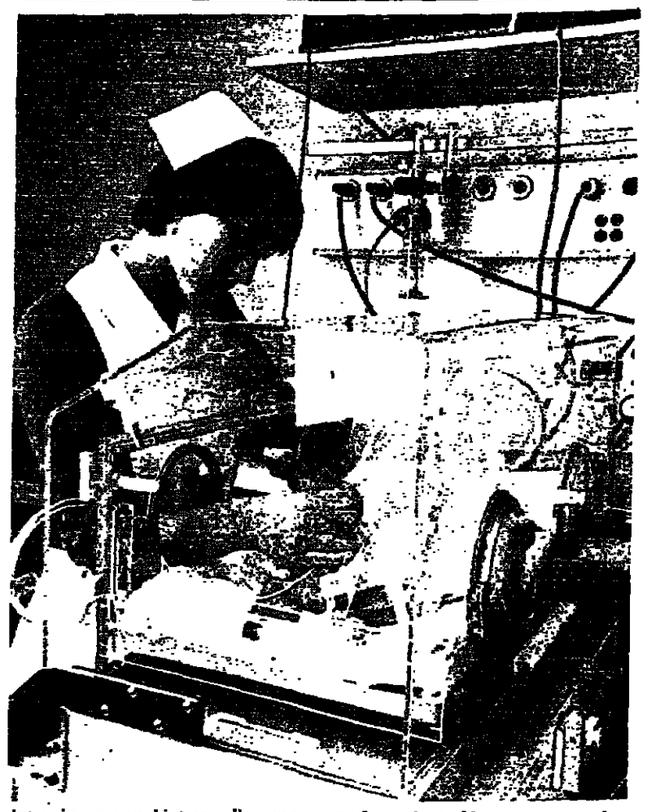
She will be working then, whatever happens today. But she believes a walkout by nurses is completely justified.

"The first word my three-year-old son learned to say was *toranut* [duty on Shabbat and at night], says Dorembus, a former immigrant from Chicago who is married to a doctor.

She regularly leaves her family on Shabbat, and is driven to work in an ambulance by a non-Jew. She is allowed to do so, despite the fact that she is religious, because of the life-saving nature of her work.

But she earns no more than a nurse with similar tenure who works regular hours in a clinic.

Despite the lack of incentive pay and the tremendous pressure Dorembus is determined to remain on the ward. There is heavy turnover, she says, and Shaare Zedek has to run special courses for premature intensive care and intermediate care unit staff every year.



Even if the doctors knew how to care for the premature babies, there wouldn't be enough of them to substitute for the nurses. There are only three physicians for the entire premature and full-term baby department. The standard ratio is one nurse for two preemies; but, in fact, one nurse now takes care of three or four.

"We're up against the wall. It's a terrible moral dilemma," says the nurse. She knows that money is short in all the hospitals. "Management decided recently to buy new undershirts for the babies instead of blankets for patients. Now anyone coming in for elective surgery is asked to bring his own blankets."

But a way must be found to raise nurses' salaries, so more professionals are attracted back into the profession, she says.

Working conditions could also be improved, by shortening shifts to six hours, or lengthening them to 12 hours so that nurses work fewer days.

As it is, manpower is so short that every time a nurse becomes pregnant administrators wonder who will take care of the premature babies while she's on maternity leave.

Haim Shiff: All I have is up for sale

Does he really mean what he says?

By GREER FAY CASHMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Does he mean it, or is he bluffing? That is the question puzzling friends and foes of hotel magnate Haim Shiff whose properties are advertised for auction by the Israel Auction Mart (IAM).

"Everything I've got is up for sale," Shiff recently declared in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*. But, apparently, this is not strictly true. Missing from the sale list are the Ariel Hotel in Jerusalem, which Shiff owns in partnership with the Travex travel agency, and two development plots in Eilat and the Dead Sea.

It is also unclear whether the land adjacent to the President Hotel in Jerusalem will be up for bids together with the hotel itself.

The site on the corner of Ahad Ha'am Street and Keren Hayesod, in the heart of the hotel belt, has lain waste for years while Shiff wrangled with the authorities over building permits and investment loans. His dream is to construct a super de luxe hotel on the site, but he hasn't even begun to clear the land.

Plagued by mounting debts and dwindling cash, Shiff might have overcome his problems if he had received a substantial government loan for building the Jerusalem Garden Hotel, which, he claims, was due to him but was paid to the Cohen family which purchased the land but couldn't finance the construction.



Haim Shiff

Shiff says he took over the project on the understanding that he would receive a $10 million long-term loan from the Tourism Development Corporation. When the money wasn't forthcoming, he filed a $10.4m. suit against the government. Incidentally, Shlomo Toussia-Cohen, Shiff's legal representative in this case, is also chairman of the board of the Israel Auction Mart.

The auction has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 2. Some of the properties, such as Jerusalem's President Hotel, Orgil Hotel, and Orgil Cinema have been on the market for a long time. Interest in them was obviously not enough to meet Shiff's asking price. Exactly what that is, he will not say, though $4m. has been mentioned in connection with the President hotel.

Shiff refuses to give an acceptable figure for any of the lots to be auctioned. "Just let them show me the cheque and I'll decide if I'll take it," he told *The Post*.

Shiff came here as a 14-year-old immigrant from Poland. Today at 62, he is a controversial figure and appears to revel in it.

Shiff has been in trouble with the rabbinate, with the Histadrut, with the health authorities, with various municipalities, with government ministries, with banks and with creditors. The President was the first hotel in the capital with a swimming pool. This was offensive to the Rabbinate which threatened to cancel the hotel's kashrut certificate.

He enjoys a good fight, but complains about the calibre of his opponents. "There's no-one to talk to. There's no-one worth fighting with," he said. There will be fewer battles if the property sales go through. According to Shiff, his "temporary financial predicament" did not spur his decision to sell.

He was soured, he said, by lack of encouragement for initiative. The government, according to Shiff, doesn't give a damn about tourism. "Taba is the main item on the agenda. It's as if the government were unaware that businesses are collapsing and thousands of people are out of work.

"I'm sick of seeing Taba in the headlines day after day. There are issues of far greater importance to the state than Taba. No-one will emigrate because of Taba; but there will be mass emigration if jobs are not available. And if there's no employment, how can you promote aliya?"

This is not a ploy by Shiff. He really does care about the country. Selling up, for him, is not synonymous with selling out. "I have no intention of leaving Israel. Whether I sell or not, I'm here to stay."

Conceding that he could at any moment change his mind and withdraw any or all of his properties from the auction, Shiff said: "Just because I feel a certain way today, doesn't mean I'll feel that way tomorrow."

In tourism and financial circles, people are watching Shiff closely. Does he have an ace up his sleeve, or has he played all his cards?

Ph.D. – Haifa University will award an honorary doctorate to Johannes Rau, the premier of the West German state of North Rhine-Westphalia, in recognition of his contribution to Israeli-German relations. The award ceremony is to take place during his visit to Israel in the spring.

Judaica auction – all-Israeli-affair

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A 17th century illuminated vellum folio volume – a membership register of the Pressburg (Bratislava) Jewish burial society – will be the main attraction at tomorrow night's auction of Jewish books, manuscripts and other works of art at the Tel Aviv Hilton.

The velvet-and-wood-bound book, containing illustrations in lacquer-based scarlet, black and gold – is one of 330 items that will go under the hammer at what the organizers call "the first all-Israeli auction sale of Judaica."

The auction is sponsored by Perry's Gemoart of Tel Aviv, a publisher of art books and prints.

Also up for sale will be a recent, run-of-the-mill novel, whose normal price would be about $3 or $4. But an ink blot and a few lines of handwritten dedication on the inside front cover will probably boost its market value to beyond $700.

The book, in Yiddish, bears a penned inscription to a friend by Marc Chagall, dated 1947. But Chagall's fountain pen was leaky and the ink was apparently still wet when the artist put the cover down, resulting in a stain on the opposite page. Chagall drew one of his famous horses on the page, with the ink spot serving as the horse's eye.

"Israelis are waking up to Judaica collecting," Gemoart's president, Yisrael Perry, told *The Jerusalem Post*. "Perhaps it is part of the return to tradition. Or perhaps it is inflation – buying art as a hedge against inflation has proven itself. Art maintains its value and its market is liquid."

Among the other items at the sale will be *havdala* spice towers, *etrog* boxes, *kiddush* goblets and charity boxes. Other items include pewter wedding and *seder* plates.

Perry, who expects sales of between $900,000 and $1 million tomorrow, told *The Post*: "What makes this business exciting is the element of surprise...an item we estimate to be worth a maximum of, say, $6,000, could very well catch the fancy of two competing bidders, and end up sold for $20,000.

The 1986 United Jewish Appeal Winter President's Mission

January 20 – 24, 1986

ONE PEOPLE UJA ONE DESTINY

Representatives of 22 American Jewish communities are visiting Israel this week as members of the fifth annual United Jewish Appeal Winter President's Mission. Their presence demonstrates the enduring partnership between the people of Israel and American Jewry. Mission participants will evaluate human needs and examine the social welfare programs of the Jewish Agency which are supported by funds raised in the UJA/Federation Campaigns in the United States.

On behalf of the United Jewish Appeal, we honor the participants for their dedication to the world Jewish family, and their personal commitment to the UJA Campaign.

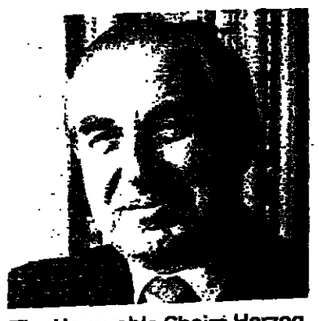
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France and UK agree to build Channel rail tunnel

LILLE (Reuter). – France and Britain yesterday announced agreement to build a twin-bore rail tunnel under the straits between their coasts, cutting the travel time between their capitals by two hours at a cost of $6.6 billion.

Announcing the project at a joint news conference in this northern French city, President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Thatcher described it as a scheme of great symbolic, economic and political importance.

"The United Kingdom and France have decided today...to link their two countries by a twin-bore tunnel under the channel for rail traffic and motor vehicle shuttle trains," Thatcher said.

"Later a drive-through link should be built" the British prime minister added, at one stage underlining her enthusiasm by breaking into French.

Calling the project the biggest civil engineering undertaking of the 20th century, Mitterrand declared:

"France is delighted at this new opportunity to show, in a world that is not so easy, that when one has the will one can succeed in linking peoples who have been brought together by history."

Both leaders referred to the creation of thousands of new jobs and said environmental and security concerns had been taken fully into account.

The two appeared in Lille's neo-Gothic town hall, adorned with hundreds of French and British flags, to announce the winner of a four-cornered contest to build a bridge or tunnel across the 35 kilometre channel.

Both said they selected the France-Manche/Channel Tunnel Group (CTG) consortium because it was technically the best among rival schemes that included a bridge and a futuristic combination of bridges and tunnel linked to artificial islands.

Mitterrand said that including the total financing cost the final bill would be around 52 billion francs ($6.6 billion.)

The consortium would hold a monopoly until the year 2020, but would be expected to come up with a road plan by the year 2000.

Work would last from 1987 to 1993. Mitterrand said the tunnel would provide an important new route for France's high speed TGV trains by adding a lucrative spur to London.

The London-Paris trip would take three hours and 15 minutes, including 30 minutes to whisk through the 50 km. twin tunnel which will link Cheriton on the British coast to Frethun in France. Some 37 km. will be under the sea. This time will be faster than the quickest surface route at present by train and hovercraft, which takes more than five hours.



President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher join French dignitaries and Scottish bagpipers at the Lille Town Hall yesterday after announcing the construction of the rail tunnel under the English Channel. (AFP telephoto)

U.S. honours Martin Luther King Jr.

ATLANTA (AP). – Veterans of civil-rights struggles in the U.S. and South Africa joined to remember Martin Luther King Jr. and his ideals yesterday as the U.S. observed the first federal holiday honouring a black leader. Banks and government offices were closed.

Vice President George Bush and other government and Congressional leaders attended a ceremony yesterday at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King was minister, awarding South African Bishop Desmond Tutu the Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Prize.

Marches and rallies were also scheduled yesterday in several state capitals.

In Alabama, where King's civil-rights crusade began in 1955 with a boycott of Montgomery city buses, a 4.2-metre statue of King was unveiled in Birmingham near the 16th Street Baptist Church, where four young black girls were killed in a bombing.

In Montgomery, a prayer and church service were held at the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, where King was pastor in the late 1950s, followed by a ceremony on the Capitol steps about a block from the church.

In Nashville, State Rep. Pete Drew, who headed a committee appointed by Gov. Lamar Alexander to draw attention to yesterday's holiday, asked Tennesseans to ring bells, honk car horns and flash their headlights in honour of King.

Tutu, the 1984 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, stood Sunday in the pulpit in Atlanta once occupied by King and promised a campaign of civil disobedience against apartheid.

Tutu, the keynote speaker at an international conference honouring King, said that if the South African government does not change its racial policies, he would lead "a campaign of civil disobedience against unjust laws."

"Our people are peaceful to a fault," he said. "We are stupid for we keep going up against an intransigent government. They use tear gas, bullets, dogs and whips."

On Sunday, the Rev. Jesse Jackson also spoke to worshippers at the Ebenezer Baptist Church and afterwards led them to the slain civil-rights leader's grave.

Libya vows to export suicide units for terror

TRIPOLI (AP). – Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi has ordered the training of "suicide squads" to conduct terrorist operations abroad, the official Jana news agency reported yesterday.

In a brief dispatch, Jana said Gaddafi "accepted demands" from the Libyan People's Congresses "for military training and formation of suicide squads as volunteers to conduct guerrilla operations in response to the American provocations and the hostile stance toward the Arab nation."

Jana did not say where and when Gaddafi made the statement.

It was the latest in a series of threats and counterthreats between Libya and the U.S. following increased tensions over the December 27 terrorist attack on Rome and Vienna airports.

President Reagan has imposed economic sanctions, ordering all U.S. citizens and companies to stop doing business with Libya because he has "irrefutable" proof that Gaddafi was involved in the airport attacks which killed 19 people and wounded 120 others.

Gaddafi in turn has accused the U.S. of assembling warships in the Mediterranean for a possible attack on Libya.

The military commander of a Libyan high school said yesterday that all Libyan pupils undergo intensive military training and are ready for suicide missions if Gaddafi orders them.

A group of western reporters was taken to Ali Awarith High School in downtown Tripoli and watched as uniformed pupils performed military drill and firing exercises with a battery of four old 40-rocket BM-21 "Stalin organ" rocket launchers.

Asked whether the pupils also train for suicide missions, Awedat replied: "Yes. All Libyans are training for suicide missions. We are all ready to launch such operations, even in the United States and into the White House itself.

Lesotho caught between Pretoria, ANC

CAPE TOWN (Reuter). – The Lesotho government of Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan, toppled in a military coup yesterday, appears to be the latest victim of the struggle between Pretoria and its black guerrilla opponents operating from nearby countries.

In the past, South African forces have raided neighbouring Lesotho, Mozambique and Botswana in attacks which the white government in Pretoria said were aimed at guerrillas of the African National Congress (ANC).

Pretoria's forces have also pursued Namibian guerrillas deep into Angolan territory and supported various right-wing rebel groups in Southern Africa, prompting accusations that it was trying to destabilize its neighbours and keep them weak.

Yesterday's coup in the mountainous kingdom of Lesotho, which is surrounded by South Africa and economically dependent on it, followed nearly three weeks of intense South African pressure on the Jonathan government.

Supplies of fuel and food to Lesotho were severely restricted by South African border restrictions which Pretoria said aimed to control ANC guerrillas. Jonathan's government called the curbs a total economic blockade.

Diplomats and political analysts say it was the issue of Jonathan's support for the ANC and relations with South Africa which precipitated the coup, although there was widespread discontent with other aspects of his rule.

South Africa is likely to welcome the new government, led by the commander of Lesotho's 1,500-member paramilitary force, Maj.-Gen. Justice Lekhanye, the analysts say.

Lekhanye is said to be anti-Communist and could reverse Lesotho's recent move towards closer cooperation with the eastern block – a move Pretoria found hard to accept in a country lying within South Africa's borders.

Pretoria is keen to sign non-aggression pacts with its neighbours to prevent them supporting the ANC. It has signed agreements with Mozambique and Swaziland and a similar deal is now possible with the new Lesotho government.

FOREIGN NEWS IN BRIEF

Black South Africans on trial for treason

DELMAS, South Africa (Reuter). – Twenty-two black South African dissidents went on trial yesterday to face charges of murder and seeking to topple the government by force.

They pleaded not guilty to the charges, which carry a possible death penalty.

Relatives and well-wishers crowded into a magistrates court at Delmas, a sleepy provincial town 60 kilometres east of Johannesburg, where the trial – the biggest such case for a quarter century – was moved for security reasons.

The accused range in age from 21 to 61. Some have been in prison since September 1984, and all have been refused bail. The trial is expected to last at least a year.

Peace treaty still eludes India and Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Reuter). – India and Pakistan said yesterday they failed to agree on key terms of a peace treaty, but made progress on a separate accord barring attacks on each other's nuclear sites.

The neighbouring countries said in a joint statement they had agreed on the substantive elements of a pact after three days of talks here between Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari and his Pakistani counterpart Niaz Naik.

Five die as high winds sweep across Britain

LONDON (Reuter). – Hurricane-force winds swept across much of Britain on Sunday, killing three women in a car crushed by a falling tree in Wiltshire and drowning two anglers on a boat trip in raging seas off Wales.

Police said 30,000 chickens died at a poultry farm in Somerset when their hut was wrecked by high winds.

Suspect held in $3m. London kidnapping

NEW YORK (AFP). – The FBI announced the arrest here Sunday of a suspect in the $3 million ransom London kidnapping of the brother of the United Arab Emirates ambassador to Britain.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said Mustapha Zein, 43, arrested at his Manhattan home, was accused of having telephoned Ambassador Mohammed Mahdi al-Tajir to demand the ransom in exchange for freeing his brother, Mohammed Sadiq al-Tajir.

The kidnap victim, abducted on January 6, escaped from confinement after the ransom was paid by dragging the bed to which he had been chained out of a London house and into the street.

45 thoroughbred horses suffocate in N.Y. fire

ELMONT, New York (AP). – Horse trainers mourned the loss of 45 thoroughbreds suffocated by a fire at a Belmont Park racetrack barn that left the animals looking "like they're asleep," a fire official said.

A barn sprinkler system broke down late last week, officials said. Track officials said the barn was worth $1 million and the horses were valued at up to $5m.

The dense, rolling smoke felled the horses quickly and probably with little pain, the fire official said.

Canada's Mounties accused of sexual harassment

VANCOUVER (AFP). – Sexual harassment by male officers is a daily hazard in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, six women who resigned as non-commissioned officers said in interviews published here over the weekend.

"I got tired of being propositioned by senior officers, who thought you were a lesbian if you didn't or a slut if you did," said one of the women.

Another reported "hate treatment" from colleagues' wives, who "were all convinced you were sleeping with their husband."

A third said that when she complained to superior officers "I was told that I had an attitude problem."

'Marcos like a mummy,' his opponent says

MANILA (Reuter). – Opposition contender Corazon Aquino yesterday likened President Ferdinand Marcos to an Egyptian mummy because of his campaign appearances with a heavily bandaged hand.

But Marcos's wife Imelda sprang to his defence. She dismissed speculation and rumours about his condition by saying he was "much healthier now" and the campaign for the February 7 election had reinvigorated her 68-year-old husband.

Imelda Marcos was standing in for him at a luncheon he had been expected to attend. No reason was given for his absence, but he did go vote-hunting in Manila later in the day with his left hand still almost concealed by a bandage.

Cricket star cops £100,000 from loyal fan

LONDON (AP). – English cricket star Geoffrey Boycott has been left £100,000 by one of his fans, who died last November, British press reports said Sunday.

The reports said the money was part of the £132,000 estate of retired schoolmistress Phyllis Culpan, who used to travel the world to watch the 45-year-old Yorkshire opener play.

The reports said that 75-year-old Culpan, whose will was published on Saturday, had, like Boycott, never married, and had no surviving relatives.

According to *The Daily Mail*, the will stated that her bequest to Boycott was "in recognition of his skilful and devoted services to Yorkshire and England and for the admiration and appreciation with which he is regarded throughout the cricketing world.".

SPORTS

Lendl officially named top man

LONDON (AFP) – Ivan Lendl was officially named yesterday world champion for 1985 by the International Tennis Federation.

The American-based Czech, who beat West German Boris Becker in the Masters final in New York on Sunday, was unanimously chosen by the ITF world champions panel of former great players, consisting of Don Budge, Fred Perry, Frank Sedgman and Tony Trabert.

Lendl, 25, is the first ITF junior champion, a title he held in 1978, to go on to become the senior world champion. In all, he won 11 tournaments last year.

On Sunday night at Madison Square Garden it became clear that a bazooka serve, powerful ground-strokes and crisp volleys help to win matches, but experience is what counts to win championships. At least that is the formula according to Ivan Lendl.

The Czech proved that when he stopped the 18-year-old Becker 6-2, 7-6, 6-3 to capture the $500,000 tournament.

"This is the sixth straight year I'm in the finals here, and it's the first time he goes into one," Lendl said. "I think it was the first big match that people expected things of him, and he didn't know how to handle it yet."

But Lendl paid tribute to his young rival. "He's doing great, there's no doubt about it," Lendl said. "With a serve like he has, he can beat anybody because he is serving like a tree man sometimes. And he can put a lot of pressure on your serve."

Becker was undaunted at the whipping. He said he thought his inability to hold serve for the second set at 5-3 may have been the turning point in the match.

"I could have won it and it would have been a new match," he said. "But I played a bad point at 30-all (when Becker netted an easy forehand volley). Then I lost the game, and he came back. I was a little bit down then, and he started playing better and better."

In an all-Swedish doubles final, Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd beat Joakim Nystrom and Mats Wilander 6-1, 7-6 (7-5).

Eight Israelis figure in tennis standings

By JACK LEON

TEL AVIV. – Eight Israeli tennis players figured in both the ATP's world singles and doubles rankings at the end of 1985. The standings are based on a player's performance over the previous 12 months, and they are updated every week on a continuous basis.

Following the 'big three' Shahar Perkis, Amos Mansdorf and Shlomo Glickstein (respectively 73, 84 and 167 in the singles rankings, as already reported), Amit Noar has overtaken Gilad Bloom, climbing to 450th place by virtue of a rise of 400 rungs up the ladder during the past 12 months. Curiously, Bloom was just one spot below Naor among the 1063 players listed.

To add to his laurels, Amit finished around 10th in singles in the International Tennis Federation's World Junior Ranking 19-and-under circuit for 1985, thus emulating Mansdorf two years ago.

Oren Motevassel, Eilon Sinai and Oded Ya'akov were among the large number of competitors bracketed in 792nd position at the foot of the ATP singles standings.

In doubles, Glickstein was the leading Israeli at year's end, with Perkis and Mansdorf following (they were respectively 36, 60 and 81 on the ATP computer). Bloom was next in 479th place, ahead of Naor on 718 and Roni Nikitin, Ya'akov and Tomer Zimmerman, all bunched together on 790.

Exciting Scots squad

GLASGOW (AP). – Scotland manager Alex Ferguson has recognised the achievement of the Edinburgh club Hearts in topping the Premier Division when he named his squad yesterday for the World Cup warm-up match against Israel in Ramat Gan next Tuesday.

Ferguson named 21-year-old central defender Craig Levein in his 21-man squad. One of only two uncapped players in the party and the first Hearts man to be included in the national squad in a decade. The other new cap is St. Mirren goalkeeper Campbell Money. The squad also includes a recall for Arsenal's exciting striker, Charlie Nicholas.

Among those unavailable for the trip are Kenny Dalglish of Liverpool and Italy-based Graeme Souness of Sampdoria.

SCOREBOARD

ATHLETICS: Antonio McKay turned in a world best time in the invitational 440-yard dash at a meet in Tennessee. McKay, who finished in 45.45 seconds, bettered the record of 46.00 set by Sunder Nix of Indiana in March 1984.
TENNIS: Uruguay eliminated Venezuela 3-2 in first-round play of the 1986 Davis Cup.

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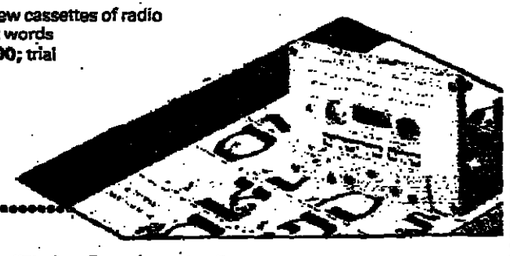
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Boycotts, do they work?

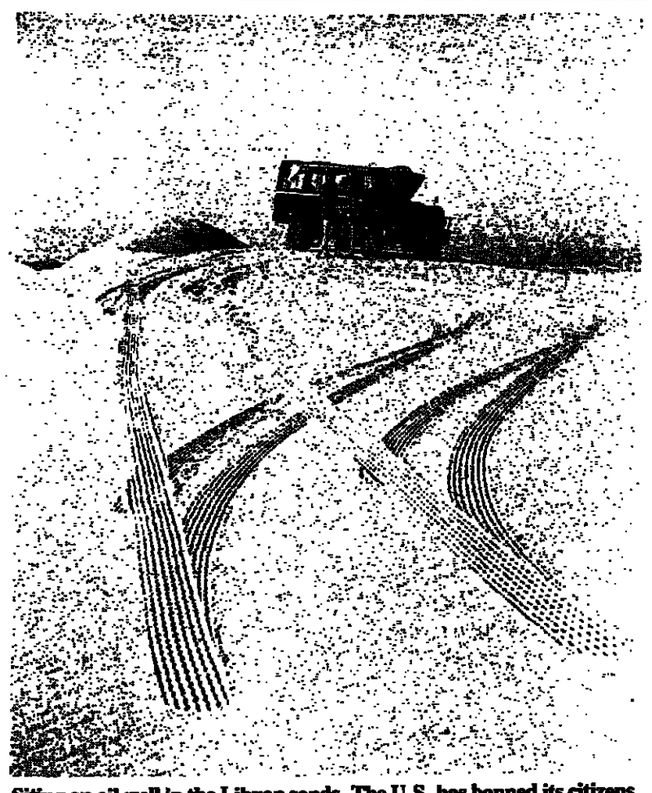
SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

THE U.S. recently decided to impose economic sanctions on Libya. All trade and financial links with Libya have been severed, that country's assets in the U.S. have been frozen and all U.S. citizens have been told to leave Libya or risk facing charges on their return to the U.S.

But the chances of such sanctions actually producing any results, unless accompanied by other means, are small: for this is the lesson of previous U.S. experience with economic sanctions against Libya since 1978.

In that year the U.S. banned the sale of all military equipment to Libya in retaliation for Gaddafi's support of terrorist groups. The 1979 amendment of the Export Administration Act (which *inter alia* dealt, like a 1977 amendment, with measures against U.S. companies giving in to the Arab boycott) named Libya, together with Iraq and South Yemen, as states because of their support for terrorism, may not receive certain U.S. exports. At the end of 1981 the U.S. imposed controls on the export of small aircraft, helicopters, aircraft parts and avionics to Libya, to "limit Libyan capacity to support military adventures in neighbouring countries." Also in that year, Exxon abandoned its Libyan operation and the Reagan administration called upon the 1,500 *American technicians residing in* Libya to leave. The U.S. also declared its passports invalid for travel to Libya, *though very few Americans* actually left Libya.

In March 1982 Reagan embargoed crude oil imports from Libya, proclaiming that "Libyan policy and actions, supported by revenues from the sale of oil imported into the U.S., are inimical to U.S. national security." By the end of 1983 the State Department was proposing to block "exports of any U.S. made products that would contribute substantially to the development of Libya's economy."



Sitting an oil well in the Libyan sands. The U.S. has banned its citizens from working in Libyan oil fields. (Camera Press)

So the U.S. has been moving slowly but surely towards the imposition of full economic sanctions against Gaddafi's Libya. Libya's reaction? *Some third-rate theatricals by the* Libyan leader. Why has the American effort not been more effective? Because most of the preconditions for the success of economic sanctions are missing in this case, not least of all support by other major trading partners of Libya. As *The New York Times* of August 19, 1983 wrote with regard to France: "Although France has also reacted with concern to Libyan moves in Africa, it has refused, in part for economic reasons, to treat Colonel Gaddafi as a pariah. It buys oil from Libya and argues that it is important to keep lines of communication open with the Libyans." The same applies to Britain, West Germany and Italy. One must also remember that Gaddafi is closely aligned to the Soviet Union, from which he receives most of his arsenal.

Thus the American move is basically psychological in its significance, signalling that the U.S. means business. The U.S. is not only concerned with Gaddafi's support of terrorists and intervention in the affairs of neighbouring states. According to the commander of a U.S. missile base in California, he is the one single greatest "pain in the neck" for American military strategists, who consider him a totally unpredictable variable.

THE WHOLE ISSUE of economic sanctions and their effectiveness has recently been dealt with in a monumental, 750-page study by Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Jeffrey J. *Schott of the Institute for Interna*tional Economics in Washington, D.C. The authors, who dealt with 103 case studies in some detail, conclude that "in most cases, sanctions do not contribute very much to the achievement of foreign policy goals; however, in some instances – particularly situations involving small target countries and modest policy goals – sanctions have helped alter foreign behavior...Economic sanctions seem most effective when aimed against erstwhile friends and close trading partners." In other words, the U.S. could most successfully use economic sanctions to influence Israel's policy, if it set its mind on doing so. The fact has not been lost on certain figures in Washington who, while not enemies of Israel, consider it an unruly shrew who ought to be tamed.

Strangely enough, one of the 103 case studies Hufbauer and Schott bring in their book relates to U.S. use of economic sanctions against Israel in the years 1956 to 1983. The first example the authors bring are the private threats by President Eisenhower in the beginning of 1957 that his administration would suspend all economic aid and tax incentives for investment in Israel unless Israel withdrew from the Sinai. They quote George Ball (U.S. undersecretary of state, 1961-1966) as having said that these threats resulted in Ben-Gurion's total submission to American demands.

The last example is connected to the Lebanon War, and here the authors mistakenly assume that economic sanctions (whose sanctions?) played a role in Israel's consenting in the peace agreement signed with Lebanon on May 6, 1983 to withdraw its forces from Lebanon in *return for a parallel withdrawal* by Syria and the PLO. The truth is that the U.S. has never attempted to use economic sanctions against Israel with any real determination, and is unlikely to do so as long as the pro-Israel lobby in Washington is as strong as it is. The potential remains.

Israel has a long history of circumventing continuous economic sanctions, commonly known as "the Arab boycott" systematically though flexibly imposed today by 17 Arab states, with the full cooperation of many Third World countries and Western companies, and the indirect cooperation of many a Western European government, not to mention Japan.

Has the Arab boycott been effective? According to Hufbauer and Schott, on a scale from 1 (failure) to 4 (success), the Arabs have scored 2. With regard to the net cost to the Arabs themselves, on a scale from 1 (net gain) to 4 (major loss), they have scored 4.

Nobody knows how much Israel has lost through the boycott. One of the reasons why we do not know is that the Israeli industrialists are unwilling to supply any sort of statistical information on the subject, and unlike the U.S. and the Netherlands, there is no law in Israel obliging them to supply such information. One reason why the industrialists are wary of supplying such information is because since 1975 the Ministry of Finance has been in charge of dealing with the boycott. But most of them also have learned to live with the boycott, using every conceivable trick, to circumvent it. We do not know how many deals do not materialize because of the boycott, nor the added cost resulting from trade diversion, or the use of "dirt roads".

On the radio's Weekly Newsreel of Saturday, January 11, we were told that one of the difficulties of the soon-to-be-closed Israel Shipyards has been that many states which were interested in an Israeli-built missile boat did not buy it due to the Arab boycott, and would not have bought it for this reason even if it were sold at half the production cost. How does one turn this statement into hard figures? How much would Israel export to the Arab world or import from it if the primary boycott were cancelled? Is it possible to distinguish between firms which have not invested in Israel because of the boycott and those which have not done so because of tension in the region?

A recent study ordered by the American Jewish Committee on foreign investment in Israel reveals that American companies with investments in Israel do not consider the Arab boycott a major impediment to foreign investment here. But they were the ones who took a positive decision regarding investment in Israel, many due to Zionist motives: not those who decided not to invest. Of course, all these were American firms.

So no one really knows what damage has been caused to Israel. We only know that if the objective of the boycott was to destroy the Israeli economy and thus lead to the political collapse of the Jewish state, it has failed dismally. Previous Israeli governments have contributed much more to achieving that objective.

HAS ISRAEL ever considered using economic sanctions against its enemies? On the eve of the declaration of the state in 1948, a long *memorandum was prepared for the* Jewish Agency dealing with the economic damage which could be inflicted on British economic interests in the Middle East if Britain tried to obstruct the establishment of the Jewish state. But Britain had no intention of taking any active measures to prevent the establishment of Israel, and Israel never got a chance to take revenge for all those Jewish refugees who were not allowed to land in Palestine in Mandatory times.

In the early 1960s some efforts were made to obstruct Egypt's exports – especially of bananas and cotton – but these efforts, only marginally successful, were discontinued when the issue was officially raised in the Foreign Ministry. Apparently no authorization had ever been given to *carry out such a policy in the first* place, and so Israel has never been an initiator of economic sanctions, only a target. In cost-benfit terms, Israel cannot really afford to be.

Hate in the mails

ALEXANDER WOHL

EACH WEEK, as many as 800 pieces of mail flood every U.S. congressional office. As the mail flows in, many of the letters stand out. These are letters which may refer to the "legacy of hate from the Jews" and talk about "the Jewish Conspiracy to seize the U.S. Government." They include postcards with boldly scrawled black crayon addresses and red ink highlights and also letters on engraved stationery. They are hate-filled verbal assaults, aimed at anything Jewish, and much of everything else.

It is to the legislative correspondent (LC) that the valuable and vital task of answering much of the representative's mail is often assigned. This individual must be prepared to write about anything – from the South Bronx to South Africa, from potholes to peace talks.

But, to even the most experienced of LC's, hate letters pose a dilemma. Most hate mail does not come with a sender's name and return address, and letters which do usually come not from the congressman's district but from the rest of the country. What does one do, anyway, with a letter which tells you to "trade yourself for the hostages"? (In a current case with an interesting twist one New York congressional office received an anti-Semitic letter in a franked envelope from a federal government office. Authorities are currently looking into the matter.)

Comedian Robert Klein once commented that, after his appearance on *The Tonight Show*, he received a piece of hate mail that was signed, appropriately, "Unsigned." His joke serves as reaffirmation of the old adage, "There is much truth in comedy."

WHEN READING through these vicious pearls of wisdom – the one liners, the multicoloured ink, and the myopic quality that generally pervades this congressional epistolary intercourse – one is tempted to laugh at the absurdity, the egocentricity, the overfed active imagination and the paranoia which grips many of these writers.

Sadly, however, these messages are not jokes, but rather express the feelings of some of this country's citizens, who may seem like bizarre zealots, but who consider themselves to be *the* true Americans.

Members of Congress are public figures and subject to much abuse. As an employee of a liberal Jewish congressman representing a district in New York, I expected to find my office receiving its share of letters from the anti-Semitic and extremist crowd. Additionally, since this congressman is closely involved with foreign affairs, is often interviewed on the nightly news or Sunday talk shows and is seen in even more homes due to the growing interest in C-SPAN (the congressional network), I expected him to have a "national following." I wasn't disappointed.

A man in Texas, in a letter representative of this type of mail, wrote that liberal representatives were "a bunch of queer-loving, baby-killing, atheistic, chicken shits" who are "scared to death of Daniel Ortega." And, if that didn't change a vote or two, he added a postscript: "P.S. I would love to get hold of some of y'all and beat a little conservatism into your thick skulls, you bunch of wimps."

The issues raised by extremist correspondents generally fall into one or more of the following predictable categories with equally predictable name-calling: Someone who is anti-apartheid or anti-Contra gets "Dear Comrade" letters with messages like "Joe McCarthy was right"; a proponent of gay rights is an automatic "queer-lover"; a gun-control supporter is a "wimp"; and a pro-choice advocate is no doubt a "baby-killer."

CLEARLY, some of the worst abuse is reserved for Jewish congressmen who are supportive of the U.S.-Israel relationship and as such are even more suspect. The name-calling runs from simply "kike" to "Smiling Cobra Jew" to even more abusive invective. One writer creatively labeled a Jewish congressman's constituency as the "Kosher Nostra."

There is a point where these letters go beyond entertainment. It could be when "Go back to Russia" becomes "Hitler did a poor job in not finishing off *all* of you." Or when the phrase "liberal New Yorker" is written, but "Jewish New Yorker" is what is meant. Or when anti-Israel letters become anti-Semitic. One person, who addressed his epithetic correspondence to "Israel's congressman from Brooklyn," wrote: "You are contemptible, and my fear is that all of you Israel-firsters will carry your immorality so far there will be a huge backlash against you kikes."

Many writers leave the explanations of issues to others. They include, with their insults, copies of articles that have appeared in publications like *Spotlight*, the mouthpiece of the anti-Semitic Liberty Lobby. Noted one man: "Inform your fellow legislator about this newspaper. There's a lot of news in it that the establishment doesn't tell us about."

Not surprisingly, it is these people who write to tell us that everything – *the mass media, the government*, the FBI, the Federal Reserve, and even "the president, our Congress and senators" – are controlled by the Jews. It was such a writer who, after noting that "my personal dealings with Jewish people seems (sic.) to refute the noble image they have of themselves," added almost philosophically:

"Since the U.S. Congress itself is controlled by Jews, why don't you submit a bill where gentiles can change their names to Jewish ones and enter into a lifestyle higher then (sic.) the one we find ourselves receding into. Then we can all work together free of bitterness for the election of a U.S. Jewish President and eventual domination of the whole world."

WHAT can be learned from the hate mail? Does it mean that anti-Semitism or extremism is on the rise? Perhaps it merely serves as a reminder that self-righteous, ignorant, hating people out there are getting gutsier and noisier.

Clearly, we cannot, and should not, censor this or any type of mail or expression. Freedom of speech (even hateful speech) is a vital ingredient of our country's success. All we can say is "keep those cards and letters coming."

Recently Elie Wiesel noted that he had received "hundreds of death threats" since last May, when he opposed President Reagan's visit to a German military cemetery in Bitburg, West Germany, where Waffen SS soldiers were buried. Wiesel noted at that time:

"This is not the first time my life has been threatened. But now they feel secure enough to sign the letters. They want me to know who they are."

It's true. No longer are they signing "Unsigned."

The writer is a legislative assistant to Congressman Stephen Solarz (Democrat-New York).

The Polish conscience

DONALD FORBES/Reuter

FOUR DECADES after the Holocaust, Poles have begun probing their national conscience with painful questions about events that occurred in their midst.

At the core of the public debate are long-suppressed issues which challenge Poland's historic view of itself as being uniquely a victim of World War II.

Were Poles actively anti-Semitic as a nation? Did their anti-Semitic collusion inspire Nazi leaders to choose Poland as the site of death camps where millions of Jews died?

This self-analysis has been prompted by French film director Claude Lanzmann, whose documentary *Shoah – reconstructs a version of the* Holocaust from interviews with German guards, Jewish survivors and Polish eyewitnesses.

Poland protested strongly when *Shoah* – the Hebrew word for annihilation – was first shown in France earlier this year, complaining that it implied Poles bore as much responsibility for the atrocity as Germans.

Government spokesman Jerzy Urban said it "relieved the Nazis of some of their guilt for the genocide of the Jews" by depicting primitive and superstitious Poles who "looked on uncaringly while unpopular neighbours were exterminated."

THE AUTHORITIES recently set *out to substantiate Urban's charges* by screening extracts of it on television. The full version, more than *nine hours long*, will shortly be in cinemas.

The showing was followed by a studio debate among intellectuals. Some not only clashed with the official view of *Shoah* but aired opinions not usually heard in public.

There has also been wide discussion in the serious press in which frequent foes such as Urban and Jerzy Turowicz, editor of the Catholic weekly *Tygodnik Powszechny*, have found themselves in rare agreement by judging the film anti-Polish.

What began as a government propaganda exercise in reaction to *perceived criticism from the West* has evolved into an open examination of what one intellectual called "a black hole in our Polish conscience."

There were 3,500,000 Polish Jews when the war started, 100,000 when it finished and a steadily aging 3,000 today.

Shoah is attacked in Poland mainly for lack of balance and sins of omission. The Warsaw intellectuals say they would have given Lanzmann's film historical perspective.

Instead he talked to peasants who farmed around Treblinka northeast of Warsaw while 800,000 Jews were gassed and cremated there, or to small-town Poles who took over vacated Jewish homes and businesses.

More than 40 years after the event, Lanzmann's simple story tellers grin, shrug helplessly or mutter mildly anti-Semitic commonplaces which might be heard anywhere in Europe.

"WE FEEL WRONGED by this film," publisher Andrzej Wasilewski said on television. "It was not the way the enormous majority of Polish society reacted to the Holocaust."

Urban, himself a descendant of Jews, said Poles acted as any other nation would have done, including the Jews.

"Should the peasants from the villages surrounding a death camp stop ploughing their fields and die of starvation?" he asked. "If the Jews had ploughed the fields round a death camp for Poles, they would have behaved the way the peasants around Treblinka behaved."

Critics say more than 100,000 Jews were saved by Poles who braved the threat of automatic death sentences to shelter them.

They accuse Lanzmann of allowing the anti-Semitism of the peasants, with their devotion to a *mystical, rural* Catholicism, to imply that the Nazis knew they could count on Polish complicity in the extermination programme.

Historian Franciszek Ryszka said: "Anti-Semitism and pogroms existed before the war but seeing what happened during it as part of a logical sequence is a very dubious manipulation.

"The Holocaust would have taken place here even if the Poles had been exclusively philo-Semitic, simply because the technical opportunities were best."

APART FROM a German desire to hide camps far to the East, Jewish survivor Prof. Arthur Sandauer said: "It was easier to bring 2.5 million people to Poland than to send 3.5 *million elsewhere.*"

Turowicz, a prominent Catholic intellectual, acknowledged the emergence of anti-Semitism in Poland at the turn of the century after generations of tolerance under which it accumulated Europe's largest Jewish population.

But he denied Lanzmann's charge that "Polish anti-Semitism is a natural child of Catholicism" and added: "Accusing Poles of co-responsibility for the genocide of the Jewish nation is absurd and groundless."

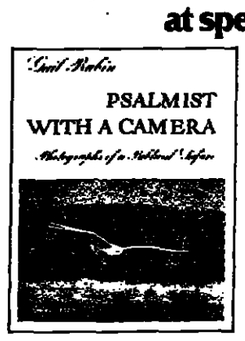
Dr. Marek Edelman, a survivor of *the Warsaw Ghetto from which* almost 400,000 were sent to Treblinka, said he did not regard Lanzmann's interviews as offensive or *Shoah* as anti-Polish.

He recalled pogroms, never officially spoken of, against Jews in towns like Krakow and Kielce after the war and the political persecution which drove many of them to leave Poland.

Academics and journalists who took part in the television debate urged an end to the public silence which has cloaked the Jewish question in Poland since the war.

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Getting the kids to listen

MUSIC/Yohanan Boehm

YOUTH CONCERT – The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, David Robertson conducting; with Daniel Pe'er, moderator; Pantomime; Opher Bhm (Jerusalem Theatre, January 15). Honegger: "Pacific 231"; Haydn: Second movement from Symphony No.101; Rimsky-Korsakov: "Flight of the Bumble-Bee"; Saint-Saens: Danse macabre; Grieg: from "Peer Gynt"; Dukas: L'Apprenti sorcier.

UNDER THE TITLE "The Orchestra talks...." the Jerusalem Symphony presented another of its programmes aimed at youthful audiences. On the surface, this bill looked quite demanding, but the proceedings proved that given the right presentation even the most highbrow performance can satisfy novice customers.

Mothers and grandmas didn't need to shush their charges, many of whom were perhaps too young for such a musical adventure, because of Daniel Pe'er's lively explanations and enjoyable clowning. His use of props helped keep the audience's attention. Just as Honegger's illustrative music seemed to flag, a wooden train made its way across the hall. A huge alarm clock was wound up and kicked by Pe'er and later a bumblebee hummed above the orchestra, pursued by the conductor giving his beats with a fly-swat. Opher Bhm and two assistants contributed pantomime routines. Pe'er found in conductor David Robertson a marvellous foil, who seemingly enjoyed clowning as much as he did conducting.

But, when in charge of the musical performance, Robertson was all concentration and leader, inspiring the JSO to faultless music-making. It was a marvellous way to make people – young and old – listen to music and like it.



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The 1986 Budget: Economic Reporter Avi Temkin gives an overall view on this page

Wage restraint and easing of tax rates are targets

The NIS 30,194 million budget tabled in the Knesset yesterday by Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i offers the public small prospects of rapid economic growth or rising standards of living. What it does promise, however, is a continuation of the stability achieved in the second half of 1985 through the economic plan.

The Treasury has stressed that if fiscal and wage restraints are maintained in the coming fiscal year, the country will see a further improvement in the balance of payments – of some $700 million – together with price stability and a decrease in income tax rates.

But the Treasury knows that keeping on its present course will be very difficult. If the number of firms going bankrupt rises and if unemployment increases, the ministry may be forced to bail out financially troubled sectors and scrap its plans of fiscal restraint. There is a danger that the coming collective wage talks may produce an agreement not consistent with the government's plans.

Nevertheless, if the past nine months have anything to teach us, it is that the government has learned to keep budget discipline. In addition, the public has rediscovered the advantages of price stability, and is likely to support the Treasury in any confrontation with the Histadrut.

One of the main features of the 1986/87 budget is the planned large reduction in the government deficit – almost to zero level. According to budget proposals, the excess of government domestic spending over revenue will fall from NIS 550m. this year to a mere NIS 19m. in 1986/87. Taking account of the government's operations in the capital market, its monetary injection in 1986/87 will total NIS 404m., compared to NIS 1,858m. this year.

In overall terms, the structure of the budget reflects the trends of the last years, with the share allocated to debt repayment going up and the share of investments and defence going down. About 40 per cent of the budget will go towards debt repayment. Defence spending will account for up to a quarter of the budget, 18 per cent will go for pensions, compensation payments and various allotments, 10 per cent for civilian spending on goods, and 7 per cent for investment.

The planned fiscal restraint will be based on a reduction of some NIS 220m. in government spending and an increase of NIS 310m. in revenue. To achieve this, the government during 1986 will cut allotments from the National Insurance Institute, impose new levies, increase the cost of government-supplied services and slash subsidies.

These developments will reflect the decisions taken last month by the cabinet. Subsidies for public transport and basic foods will be cut by $115m. Export promotion schemes will be slashed by $77m. and NII allotments by $70m. Local authorities will lose $14m., defence $100m. and government-owned companies and authorities $73m. In addition, measures planned to save $23m. on health and $47m. on education were approved.

According to Treasury plans dismissals of public sector workers is to continue in 1986/87. Finance ministry plans call for the dismissal of 14,300 workers from the public sector during 1985/86 and 1986/87. This figure includes the dismissal of 3,460 workers from government ministries, 1,050 from government enterprises, 500 from universities, 4,875 from local authorities and 4,400 from the education system. Most of the dismissals were already implemented this year.

On the sensitive issue of devaluation the budget proposal has little to say beyond what has been stated time and again by the Treasury over the last months. The rate of devaluation will depend on the increase of labour costs, on productivity and on changes in the value of European currencies relative to the dollar. A weaker dollar will make it possible to follow a more flexible wage policy. Otherwise, the basic link between the level of gross wages and that of the rate of exchange will continue.

According to Treasury calculations real gross wages in April will be 3 to 4 per cent higher than they were in 1980. Net wages will be 10 to 11 per cent higher than they were in that year. The ministry stressed that this is the level of gross wages it would like to maintain during the year. Workers should be compensated for wage erosion through a reduction in tax rates, not through higher nominal salaries. For this purpose the budget set apart a $150m. reserve to finance a reduction in income tax rates, if an accord along these lines is reached with the Histadrut.

In an effort to boost the business sector, the Treasury will free some $150m. from the moneys it raises in the capital market. Instead of having to buy government bonds, pension and provident funds will be allowed to buy up to $150m. of bonds issued by private firms.

What the tax authorities have in mind

According to budget forecasts tax revenue next year will total NIS 15.4 billion. This is based on the assumption that the basic features of the economy in the second half of 1985 will continue next year. The tax authorities assume that lower inflation and the drop in the tax burden will continue.

There is no mention of plans to raise the travel tax from its present level of $100 or to impose a levy on private cars again.

According to Treasury figures wage earners during the last months enjoyed large reductions in their direct taxes. The accumulated value of adjusted tax brackets, tax credit points and the tax threshold has risen by some 40 per cent over levels at the beginning of the current fiscal year, officials say.

The Treasury considers this a "quiet revolution" in the tax area and plans to continue the trend. For this purpose some $120m. was set apart in the budget to help finance the reduction in tax rates. This, the Treasury hopes, will convince the Histadrut to make major concessions in the coming wage negotiations.

The budget assumes that the 8.3 per cent surtax on companies and the self-employed imposed in 1985 will be discontinued. There are no formal plans for a tax on financial assets or for higher taxes on income from such assets. The Treasury says that these issues may still be examined, but stressed that any future tax will not apply to existing wealth.

A clue about possible future developments – not mentioned in the state budget proposal – is the inclusion of a detailed estimate of the revenue lost to the Treasury through tax deductions and exemptions granted to certain sectors in the economy.

According to this estimate, the Treasury last year lost revenue totalling some NIS 1.8b. from such exemptions. Almost half of this sum – some NIS 867m. – was due to exemptions in the capital market. Another NIS 400m. was lost due to exemptions from employers' tax and some NIS 150m. from taxes on income from investments, reductions for the encouragement of investment, and from exemptions on taxes on dividends.

The Treasury expects to collect some NIS 8.6b. from income tax and other direct taxes, 3.8 per cent more than this year. From wage earners the ministry expects to collect some NIS 3b. – an increase of 5.6 per cent in real terms, despite the decrease in tax rates. This is due to the increase in real wages and the reduction in tax credit points for childless workers approved by the cabinet in December.

From companies the Treasury expects to collect some NIS 1.65b – 11.6 per cent more than this year – and from the self-employed NIS 1b., about 3.5 per cent less than in 1985/86. This shortfall is explained by the discontinuation of the surtax.

Income from indirect taxes, purchase taxes, customs and Value Added Tax, will total NIS 6.4b in 1986/87. This represents a drop of 2.2 per cent from this year.

World coffee crop likely to set record

WASHINGTON (AP). – The world coffee crop for 1985-86 is estimated at a record 98.6 million bags, up 9 per cent from last season, the U.S. Agriculture Department said Friday.

Officials said the current estimate is about 1 per cent above the previous record of 98.2m. bags harvested in 1981-82. A bag of green, unroasted coffee weighs 60 kilograms, or about 132 pounds.

Cuts in all the social services

Social services will bear the brunt of the proposed budget cuts. The trend of imposing new taxes and levies started in 1983 and will continue next year, along with the dismissal of workers and a reduction in payments made by the National Insurance Institute.

The budget cuts will affect all social services: Education, health, welfare, NII allowances and local authorities. These measures will reflect the decisions taken by the government in the last year, specially those approved in July and December 1985.

The total budget allocation for social services will be $3.6 billion. Of this amount 46 per cent will go for allotments and pensions paid by National Insurance, 31 per cent will go for education, and 11 per cent for health and welfare. The cuts approved by the cabinet total $156 million. A full $130m. of this will come from reduced allowances and NII payments, and the rest from reduced government spending.

Cuts in education will total $47.5 million.□ The education levy collected from parents with children at school is expected to cover $24m. of this.

□ Reduced teaching hours and reductions of teachers' salaries are counted on to save $22m.

□ Closing certain teachers' seminaries will save $1.5m.

Some $23m. will be saved in the health budget.

□ Raising health fund fees is expected to bring in $15m.

□ Lower government support for the funds through larger contributions by the self-employed – $4m.

□ Miscellaneous savings in the health ministry – $4m.

National Insurance Institute payouts will be reduced by $68m. This will be achieved by:

□ A reduction in seniority increments for old age allowances – $30m.

□ Abolition of children's allowances for a family's first child – $30m.

□ Taxing maternity grants at source – $5m.

□ Delaying the replacement of cars for handicapped persons – $3m.

Basically, the trend of reductions in the social services is not new. It started about three years ago. According to Treasury calculations, a comparison of next year's budget with that of 1984 will show that spending on education, health and welfare has decreased by some $317m.

The extent of the reduction in spending on social services becomes clear when it is compared to the Gross National Product. In 1982 expenditure on social services was some 20 per cent of the GNP. For next year this proportion will fall to 17.6 per cent.

A detailed analysis of spending shows that this trend affects all areas and reflects the Treasury's open hostility to universal social services.

Thus, the education system will have to accept in addition to the introduction of the education levy a reduction of some 20,000 teaching hours and a slowdown in the construction of classrooms. The Treasury hopes that this will force the Education Ministry to increase the number of pupils in classrooms, in accordance with the agreed standard. The Treasury claims that the average of pupils per classroom should go up from 26 to more than 30.

The Treasury has made it clear that it expects the higher payments to the health funds to prevent any future crisis in that area. Thus, if a financially troubled health system threatens to collapse under the burden of past debts and current shortages, the Treasury is likely to say that such a crisis is "artificial" or "not real."

Even so, the Finance Ministry admits that the funds will still face financial difficulties, but it insists that this means they should adjust their operations to the available resources.

The Treasury is asking the local authorities to fire 875 workers – saving some $5m. – and to raise their income from municipal taxes by some $9m.

On the bright side, this year will eventually witness the implementation of the much-needed Nursing Care Bill, which will provide oldsters with a minimum of care.

WHAT'S ON

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JERUSALEM

Museums

ISRAEL MUSEUM. Exhibitions: Ancient Mirrors, display of mirrors from different cultures ◊ Contemporary Art from Museum Collection. Ayala Zacks Abramov Pavilion for Israel Art, exhibition of major Israel art works of this century ◊ Odilon-Redon, Oils, Pastels, Drawings and Prints. ◊ Architecture in Jerusalem, computer games to building with stone ◊ "Nerot Mitzvah," Ideas for Light in Jewish ritual ◊ The Cosmic and the Divine, Andean textiles ◊ "From the Depths of the Sea," cargoes of ancient wrecks from Carmel coast (Rockefeller) ◊ Placescape: 14 artists present versions of surrounding landscapes. Paley Centre, near Rockefeller Museum ◊ Permanent collections of Judaica, Archaeology, Art and Ethnic Art ◊ **Visiting Hours – Main Museum:** 4-10. Shrine of the Book 10-10?. At 3: Guided tour of Shrine of the Book in English. 4.30: Guided tour of Museum in English. 5 and 8: Film, "Amadeus."

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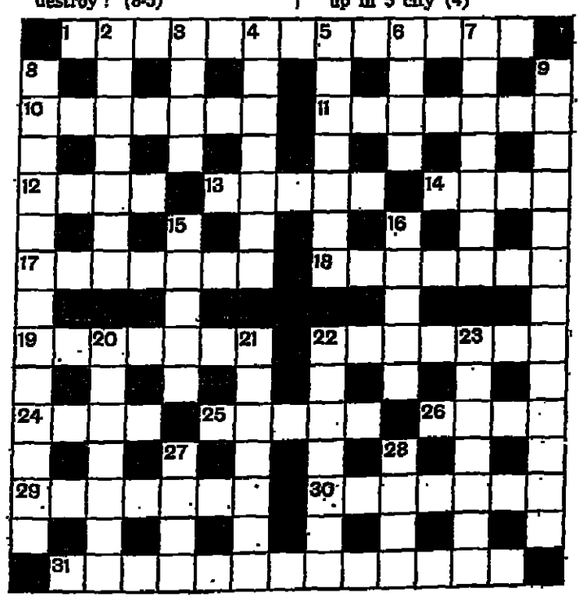
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ACROSS
1 P-pipes? (5-8)
10 Could be bad sign for the corporation (7)
11 Sat oddly to go on horseback? No, it's the usual way! (7)
12 Smooth driver? (4)
13 Nick at home—good fellow, we hear (5)
14 Set of players showing slight squint (4)
17 Object of broadcast recital? (7)
18 In this time and this place or just the opposite (7)
19 Like Gray, English member taking one to account (7)
22 Robber of equipment in group (7)
24 Very short distance. this Scottish isle (4)
25 Lady of the orchestra (5)
26 . . . lady having pupil in central position (4)
29 Find fault with Gran, perhaps, swallowing fresh air (7)
30 River Dee, we hear, is first to run from the mouth (7)
31 Task-force trying ramps to destroy? (8-5)

DOWN
2 Wild demon, by the way, should be farthest behind (7)
3 Not feeling well after injection? (4)
4 Delightful victory by a few (7)
5 Mendelssohn's fourth wine like 21, for example (7)
6 Pictures here show foreign state overthrown (4)
7 Islamic ruler's territory? Leave country, leaving Gulf behind (7)
8 Man in a 17 perhaps, or man in Panama? (5-8)
9 The rafters due for repair? Use this very light brush (7-6)
15 Skimp endlessly for lining fabric (5)
16 One of Sylvia's lovers from the country? (5)
20 Right in leaving out quote from book (7)
21 Some people make light of such a bottle (7)
22 Clip a dog? (7)
23 Tumbler often seen on bars (7)
27 One who makes knots in a row (4)
28 Very little to drink comes up in 5 city (4)



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Voice of Music

6.02 Morning melodies
7.07 Bach: Prelude and Fugue No.7, 8
7.30 Weiss: Suite No.21; Vaughan Williams: Tallis Fantasy (Pro Musica/Atlas); Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante for Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn and Strings, K.297b (Nicolet, Holliger, Baumann, Tonmann); Spohr: "Jessonda" Overture; Brahms; 7 Choir Songs, Op.62 Radio Stockholm): Dvorak: Symphonic Variations, Op.78 (Pro Musica/Atlas)
9.30 Borodin: In the Steppes of Central Asia; Boscovich: The Golden Chain (JSO/Ronli Riklis); Rachmaninov: Suite No.2, Op.17 (Argerich, Grager); Danses nobles et danses sentimentales (Montreal/Dutoit); Saint-Saens: Cello Concerto No.1 (Harnoy); Borodin: Symphony No.1 (Svetlanov); Brahms: Motet
12.05 Devienne: Quartet; Mozart: Sonata in B-flat major (Szymon Goldberg, Radu Lupu); Zappa: The Total Stranger
13.00 Debussy: Excerpts from "Children's Corner" (Benedetti-Michelangeli); Mussorgsky: "Nursery"; Lalo: Symphonie Espagnole (Amouyal); Dvorak: Symphony No.8 (Cleveland/Segal)
15.05 News from the Record Library
16.00 Mendelssohn: 6 Duets for 2 Sopranos, Op.63; Beethoven: Serenade, Op.8 (Perlman, Zukerman, Harrell); Dirk Schaeffer: Piano Quintet, Op.5; Villa-Lobos: Bachianas Brasileiras No.5 (Te Kanawa). Spohr: Double Quartet (Melos, London); Rimsky-Korsakov: Quintet (Nash Ensemble)
18.30 All-Gelbrun programme – Sonatina (1946) (Herut Israeli); 10 Thoughts of Love (1948) (Berendsen, Bloch); String Quartet (1969) (Quartet Sol-la-Re)
20.05 Handel: Oboe Concerto No.1 (Holliger); Haydn: Arietta con variazioni (Mindru Katz)
20.30 All-Bach: Suite No.1; Concerto for 2 Violins; Concerto for Violin and Oboe; Suite No. 2 (Israel Chamber orchestra, Nicolas Kremer conducting; Shiran and Reuben, violins; Weintraub, flute; Pintus, oboe); Gelbrun: "Ashre" (1985, Lily Tuneh, soprano, Israel Quartet)
22.30 Ligeti: "Atmospheres" (New York/Bernstein) – to be played four times
23.00 The Life of Bizet – (3) Cesar Franck and friends

First Programme

6.30 Programmes for Olim
7.30 Favourite Old Songs
8.05 Compass – with Benny Hendel
9.05 Hebrew songs
9.30 Encounter – live family magazine
10.30 Programme in Easy Hebrew
11.10 School Broadcasts
11.30 Education for all
12.05 Oriental songs
13.00 News in English
13.30 News in French
14.06 Children's programmes
15.25 Education for all
15.55 Notes on a New Book
16.05 Science in Israel
17.20 Everyman's University
18.06 Jewish Traditions
18.47 Bible Reading
19.05 Talmud Lesson
19.30 Programmes for Olim
22.05 Two by Two

Second Programme

6.30 Editorial Review
6.53 Green Light – drivers' corner
7.00 This Morning – news magazine
8.05 Safe Journey
9.05 House Call – with Rivka Michaeli
10.10 All Shades of the Network – morning magazine
12.10 Open Line – news and music
13.00 Midday – news commentary, music
14.06 Matters of Interest – with Gabi Gazit
15.10 Safe Journey
16.05 Songs and Homework
17.10 Economics Magazine
18.06 Health and Medical Magazine
18.45 Today in Sport
19.05 Today – radio newsreel
19.35 New World – environment magazine
20.05 Cantorial Requests
22.05 Once More – repeat broadcast
23.05 Quizzes

Army

6.30 University on the Air
7.07 "707" – with Eitan Lifschitz
8.05 Good Morning Israel
9.05 Right Now – with Rafi Reshef
11.05 The Old Days – with Orly Yaniv
13.05 Israeli Style – with Eli Yisraeli
15.05 What's Doing – with Erez Tal
16.05 Four in the Afternoon
17.00 Evening Newsreel
18.06 Economics Magazine
19.05 Radio Instead
20.06 Not Only Rock
21.00 Mabat – TV Newsreel
21.30 University on the Air (repeat)
22.05 Popular songs
23.06 Classical Night Birds

TELEVISION

EDUCATIONAL:
8.15 School Broadcasts **14.00** Evolution (part 4) **14.20** Laurel and Hardy **14.45** Hello Israel **15.00** Rehov Sumsum **15.30** Rainbow **16.00** Pretty Butterfly **16.25** Dick Turpin (part 2) **16.50** Nature Quiz **17.00** A New Evening – live magazine
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES:
17.30 Maya the Bee
18.00 Problems of High School Children
ARABIC LANGUAGE programmes:
18.30 News roundup
18.32 Songs and dances
19.00 Safari to Adventure. Part 2: Bear Country
19.30 News
HEBREW PROGRAMMES *resume at* **20.00** with a news roundup
20.02 Three's Company – comedy: Terry makes her Move
20.30 Kolbotek
21.00 Mabat Newsreel
21.30 Second Look – focus on matters of moment
22.20 Family. Drama, starring Georgine Anderson and Alexander Morton
22.50 The Well-Tempered Bach. Part 1 of a 2-part biography of Johann Sebastian Bach
23.50 News
JORDAN TV (unofficial):
17.30 Cartoons **18.00** French Hour **19.30** News in Hebrew **20.00** News in Arabic **20.30** That's my Boy **21.30** A Fortunate Life **22.00** News in English **22.20** Murder She Wrote
MIDDLE EAST TV (from T.A. north):
13.00 Animals, Animals, Animals **13.30** Another Life **14.00** 700 Club **14.30** Shape-Up **15.00** Afternoon Movie **16.30** Incredible Hulk **17.00** Flying House **17.30** Muppets **18.00** Battlestar Galactica **19.00** News **20.00** Riptide **21.00** Another Life **21.30** Simon & Simon **22.30** Airwolf **23.20** 700 Club

CINEMAS

JERUSALEM 4.30, 7, 9
Eden: White Nights 4.15, 6.45, 9.15; **Edison:** Commando; **Habira:** Prizzi's Honor 4.30, 6.45, 9.15; **Kfar:** Back to the Future 4.30, 7, 9.15; **Mitchell:** When Father Was Away on Business 6.45, 9.15; **Orgil:** Year of the Dragon 4, 6.30, 9; **Orna:** Pray for Death; **Ron:** I Know that You Know; **Semadar:** Desperately Seeking Susan 7, 9.15; **Binyanei Ha'uma:** For Those I Loved 6.45, 9.15; **Beit Agron:** BMX Bicycle Riders 4; Anna Karenina 6; Body Heat 7.45; Diva 9.30; **Cinematheque:** Alice in Wonderland 4; Undernose 7; Memories of Underdevelopment 7.30 (small hall); Sansho Dayu 9.15 (small hall); The Servant 9.30; **Israel Museum:** Amadeus 5, 8

TEL AVIV 4.30, 7.15, 9.30
Allenby: Joy 7.30, 9.30; **Beit Leissin:** Fright Night 11.15 p.m.; **Ben-Yehuda:** Back to the Future; **Chen 1:** Year of the Dragon 4.15, 7, 9.45; **Chen 2:** Marie, a True Story 5, 7.20, 9.40; **Chen 3:** Doin' Time 4.45, 7.20, 9.46; **Chen 4:** The Goonies 10.30, 1.30, 4.45, 7.20, 9.40; **Chen 5:** The Sure Thing 10.30, 1.30, 4.45, 7, 9.40; **Cinema One:** Purple Rose of Cairo; **Cinema Two:** Amadeus 4, 6.45, 9.15; **Dekel:** White Nights 7, 9.30; **Drive-in:** Perfect 7.15, 9.30; Sex film, 12 midnight; **Esther:** Pray for Death; **Gat:** Plenty 4.30, 7, 9.30; **Gordon:** Flesh and Blood 4.30, 7, 9.30; **Hod:** Gulag; **Lev I:** Target 1.30, 4.50, 7.10, 9.20; **Lev II:** Destiny 2, 5, 7.30, 9.30; **Limor Hamahudash:** Prizzi's Honor 4.30, 7, 9.30; **Maxim:** The Falcon and the Snowman 4.30, 7, 9.30; **Mograbi:** Commando; **Orly:** Back to the Future; **Paris:** Birdy 11.30, 2, 4.15, 7.15, 9.30; **Peer:** When Father Was Away on Business 4.15, 7, 9.30; **Shahaf:** For Those I Loved 6, 9; **Studio:** Jagged Edge; **Tchelet:** Swan Lake 4.30, 7, 9.30; **Tel Aviv:** Life Force; **Tel Aviv Museum:** Boy Meets Girl; **Zafon:** Ran 6.15, 9.30; **Israel Cinematheque:** Das Andere Lacheln 7; Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex 9.30; **Tamuz Hamehudash:** Apocalypse Now 6.45, 9.30; **Institut Français:** Rue Case-Negres 7.30

HAIFA 4.30, 6.45, 9
Amphithaatra: The Falcon and the Snowman 4, 6.45, 9.15; **Armon:** Commando; **Atzmon:** Target 4.30, 7, 9.15; **Chen:** Birdy 4.15, 6.30, 9; **Moriah:** Closed; **Orah:** For Those I Loved 6, 9; **Orly:** Prizzi's Honor 6.45, 9.15; **Peer:** Pray for Death; **Ron:** Back to the Future 4, 6.45, 9.15; **Shavit:** Code of Silence 7, 9; **Rav-Gat 1:** Year of the Dragon 3.45, 6.30, 9.15; **Rav-Gat 2:** White Nights 3.45, 6.30, 9.15; **Karen Or Hamehudash:** Kaos 6, 9; **Centre Culturel Francais:** La Vie Devant Soi 9.30

RAMAT GAN
Armon: Commando 5, 7.15, 9.30; **Lilly:** Prizzi's Honor 7, 9.30; Romancing the Stone 4.30; **Oasis:** Year of the Dragon 6.60, 9.30; **Ordea:** Back to the Future 4.30, 7.15, 9.30; **Ramat Gan:** Flesh and Blood 4.30, 7, 9.30; **Rav-Gan 1:** Plenty 4.30, 7.10, 9.40; **Rav-Gan 2:** Birdy 5, 7.20, 9.45; **Rav-Gan 3:** The Key 4.30, 7.15, 9.30; **Rav-Gan 4:** The Sure Thing 4.30, 7.20, 9.40

HERZLIYA
David: For Those I Loved 6.45, 9.30; **Hechal:** Life Force 4.30, 7.15, 9.30; **Tiferet:** The Goonies 4.30, 7.15; Top Narrow Bridge 9.30

HOLON
Migdal: Year of the Dragon 7, 9.30; **Savyon:** Life Force 4.30, 7.15, 9.30; **Armon Hamehudash:** Commando 5, 7.15, 9.30

BAT YAM
Atzmaut: Invasion U.S.A. 4.30, 7.15, 9.30

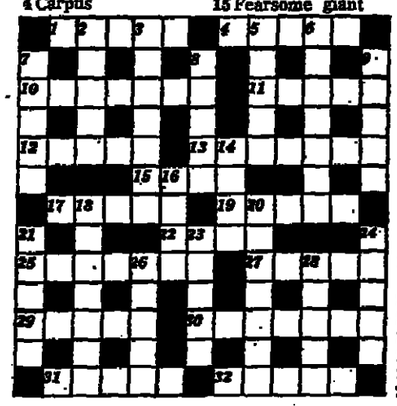
GIVATAYIM
Hadar: Life Force 4.30, 7.15, 9.30

RAMAT HASHARON
Kochav: Flamenco Kid 7; Mask 9.30

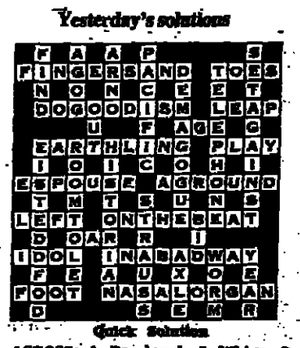
QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Greek woodland deity
4 Carpus
10 Sunshade
11 Sphere
12 Mannequin
13 Skilled worker
15 Fearsome giant
17 Shrub yielding hair-dye
19 Wideawake
22 Pleasure-beach
25 Ship's winding-machine
27 Lewd
29 Devout
30 Withdraw
31 Postpone
32 Coastal inlet

DOWN
2 Bitterly pungent
3 Greek letter
5 Correct
6 Godparent
7 Froth
8 Lucid
9 British coin
14 Peruse
16 Fête
18 Investigate
20 Edible crustacean
21 Room for action
23 Sluggish
24 City of Japan
26 Opera by Puccini
28 Work at loom



Yesterday's solutions



Quick solution

ACROSS: 1 Powdered, 7 Whips, 8 Third-rate, 9 Hit, 10 Hall, 11 Medley, 13 Faggot, 14 Occupy, 17 Aurora, 18 Chic, 20 Sum, 22 Geography, 23 Exile, 24 Thank you. **DOWN:** 1 Pitch, 2 Whiting, 3 Eddy, 4 Elated, 5 Fishy, 6 Ash-tray, 7 Wedlock, 12 Courage, 13 Flashed, 15 Unhappy, 16 Brooch, 17 Ambit, 19 Coypu, 21 Grin.

Semi-recession is likely to continue

By MEIR MERHAV
Post Economic Editor

The state budget for 1986/87, tabled yesterday in the Knesset by Finance Minister Moda'i, amounts to NIS 30.8 billion (approximately $19.5b.) and represents a real cut in budgetary spending of 5.3 per cent compared with the current 1985/86 budget.

For the first time in many years the Treasury will not have to submit a supplementary budget for the current fiscal year, and it confidently predicts that the 1986/87 budget now submitted will also be final.

The Treasury expects virtually to eliminate the excess demand generated by the budget, and to bring it down from NIS 282 million in the current fiscal year to NIS 19m. next year.

The basic deficit – the excess of expenditure over ordinary revenue that is financed by loans – is to be $5.043b., but the foreign grants-in-aid and the emergency grant exceed this deficit and leave a surplus for replenishing the foreign-currency reserves.

As in the 1985/86 budget, and particularly since last July, most of the cuts in budgetary spending are to be achieved not by reductions of public-sector spending, but by shifting expenditure to the public through a further slashing of subsidies to basic goods and services, and through the imposition of fees for government services such as education and health.

The subsidies to basic goods and services and to agricultural production are to be slashed by 40 per cent in real terms, from some NIS 884m. (in 1986 prices) to NIS 530m. This accounts for more than a quarter of the total budget cut.

The allocations for domestic defence expenditure show an apparent cut of 4.7 per cent, from NIS 3.929b. to NIS 3.745b. But this does not include domestic expenditure of dollars converted into domestic currency, nor does it include the amounts obtained by the Defence Ministry from the sale of surplus equipment. As a result, actual domestic defence spending may be even higher than in the outgoing fiscal year.

The thrust of the economic policy articulated by the budget is, as a senior Treasury official called it, the "stabilization of the stabilization" achieved by the economic recovery programme launched last July. The budget's policy purposes are:

- stabilizing the balance-of-payments position and an increase in the foreign-currency reserves by most of the special emergency grant of $750m. this year from the U.S.
- continued stabilization of low-level inflation
- reducing the public sector and continued change in the structure of employment
- creating an economic atmosphere in which the public's expectations will be of continued stability
- creating the preconditions for economic growth

The 1986/87 budget, the estimates of implementation for the current fiscal year, and the real-term changes, are shown in Table 1.

Table 2 shows the comparison of the next with the current budget by economic destination, and the percentage distribution of the budget by main items of expenditure.

Defence, which took up 23.7 per cent of total expenditure in 1985/86, accounts for a larger share – 25.3 per cent – in the next fiscal year, but the share of civilian government expenditure also grows slightly – from 9.8 per cent in the current fiscal year to 10.1 per cent next year. As against this, the shares of transfer payments, of investment and of the debt service are smaller.

At the press briefing on the budget, Emmanuel Sharon, the director-general of the Treasury, described the budget as reflecting the "battle between defence, welfare and economy."

The breakdown of the defence allocations for 1986/87 shows, that against a planned cut of 3.2 per cent in domestic defence spending, and the cutbacks in the regular armed forces, the expenditure on wages shows a rise, and so do transfer payments.

Acquisitions from abroad – financed predominantly by the U.S. military aid grants – are planned to increase by 11.3 per cent in real terms.

The Treasury's definitions of defence spending relate to financial commitments, while the definitions of the Central Bureau of Statistics regard actual import of defence goods at the time of arrival as the real defence spending abroad. According to recently released CBS estimates there has been an increase of 3.8 per cent in defence imports in calendar 1985, and domestic purchases of defence goods have increased continuously in real terms since 1980 until 1984. The rise in defence imports, under both definitions, will therefore entail a later increase in domestic defence spending, as the additional military equipment will have to be absorbed and integrated into the battle order.

The date of the budget proposal seem to show that domestic defence spending as a proportion of the gross national product has declined almost continuously in the last decade, excepting only 1982, the year when the Lebanon war was launched.

In 1976 they were 15 per cent of the GNP, while for 1986 they are planned to be 10.9 per cent of the GNP. This does not, however, take into account the debt service on the military aid loans of previous years, which amounts to nearly $1b. a year, nor does it include other defence expenditures.

The share of defence in the state budget net of the total debt service, military as well as civilian, domestic and foreign remains around 40 per cent.

While defence spending remains as high as it has been as a share of the budget and may even be increasing, the expenditures on welfare have been slashed, as has spending on investment and in particular subsidies.

Investment spending has been reduced by $60m. – a cut that has mostly been effected since the economic recovery programme was launched in July, and remains at the lower level of the latter part of 1985.

Investment loans have been eliminated and replaced by investment grants. The explanatory notes of the budget state that the share of investment spending will remain unchanged, at 8.2 per cent of the total civilian budget, but the sharp credit restrictions imposed by monetary policy, together with the elimination of development loans, have sharply cut the availability of investment capital for new enterprises, and, probably even more so, for investment in modernization, automation, and other productivity increases.

According to the preliminary national accounts published recently by the Central Bureau of Statistics, investment in 1985 shrank by another 10 per cent on top of the 15 per cent decline of 1984.

In 1986 the Treasury plans to permit the provident funds to invest some $150m. in capital issues of approved investments in industry, tourism and agriculture, instead of obliging them to invest their funds in government paper.

However, as Deputy Finance Minister Adiel Amorai explained at the press briefing on Sunday, this amount will barely be enough to allow firms in the business sector to recycle maturing bond issues.

The absolutely and relatively largest cut in the 1986/87 budget is in the further slash of subsidies to basic products and agricultural production by another $115m. The total remaining amount of subsidies will be $318m. Since the subsidies to agricultural products have for many years been the main instrument for planning farming output, their reduction to at most 25 per cent will, as the budget's explanatory notes say, require greater reliance on administrative controls of production.

The 1986 budget will slash the subsidy to milk from the present 25 per cent of the cost of production to 9 per cent: the subsidy to standard bread will be cut from 130 per cent to 50 per cent, and that of white bread from 65 to 30 per cent. The subsidy to public transport will be reduced from 60 to 25 per cent. The subsidies to eggs and frozen poultry (at 25 per cent), and water (at 50 per cent) will remain unchanged.

As against the remaining subsidies, which will still account for an expenditure of $318m., the government will still collect $63m. from the impost on meat imports, which amounts to $2,110 per ton. Although the main purpose of this is protecting domestic meat production, it fully equals the subsidy to eggs and poultry, which is therefore not a fiscal burden.

Although support for exports, mainly through exchange-rate insurance, is to be cut – taking advantage of the appreciation of the European currencies against the dollar – the government will in 1986 spend NIS 664m. (some $420m.) on aid to exports. It is doing this despite the profitability of exports having increased as the combined result of the rise in the value of the European currencies, the fall in real wages, the decline in the price of basic commodities, and the fixed exchange rate as against the dollar, in which most imported inputs are paid.

The budget allocates some $220m. to civilian research and development, of which $100m. will go to academic research institutions, $90m. to industry, $17m. to agricultural research, and $6.5m. to research in energy. The allocation for civilian industrial R&D is unchanged in real terms, as compared with the current fiscal year.

If the overall expenditure on civilian R&D is to remain static, that on oil exploration will shrink. The total development budget of the Ministry of Energy will be NIS 37m.

The thrust of the budget is to hold on to the achievements of the stabilization policy begun last July. But although the renewal of economic growth remains the declared purpose of economic policy, the budget contains virtually no provision for it. Additional resources have come from a bigger-than-planned erosion of real wages, a fall in commodity prices, U.S.emergency aid, a rise in industrial productivity and the unforeseen appreciation of the European currencies against the dollar. But these are to be used not for the renewal of stable long-term growth, but to the firming up of a static stability.

Like the state budget, so the forecasts of the national accounts presented in the so-called national budget published yesterday envisage no perceptible move out of the prevailing semi-recession towards renewed growth. The stabilization of stabilization remains the watchword, and present economic policy neither looks nor aims beyond it.

Table 1. The 1986/87 Budget, Estimates of 1985/86 Expenditure, and Real-Term Changes, in NIS millions

	1986/87	1985/86 (1986 prices)	1985/86 (1985 prices)	Real Change per cent
Total Gross Expenditure	30,797	32,534	16,599	-5.34
less: expenditure contingent upon revenue	1,903	1,428	1,177	-24.96
Total Net Expenditure	28,894	30,227	15,422	-4.41
Defence	7,295	7,451	3,645	+2.09
Ordinary Budget:	8,146	8,449	4,311	-3.59
Local Autorities	487	502	256	-3.14
Pensions & Invalid Benefits	611	693	275	+13.34
Subsidies to Basic Goods	530	884	451	-40.04
Reserve	920	1,050	412	+14.07
Other ordinary expenditures	5,598	5,717	2,917	-2.09
Development Budget:	1,680	1,969	1,005	-14.67
Housing	347	348	176	+0.43
Reserves	222	257	131	-13.67
Other Development Budget	1,111	1,366	697	-18.68
Debt Service:	11,773	12,664	6,461	-7.03
Credit Subsidies	678	693	339	+2.09
Interest	5,580	5,607	2,861	-0.49
Principal	5,515	5,968	3,261	-13.71

Table 2. Budget Expenditure by Economic Destination, 1986/87 and 1985/86, in NIS, Current Prices, and Percentage Shares of Main Items

	1986/87	Percent	1985/86	Percent
Total Net Expenditure	28,894	100.0	15,422	100.0
Civilian Public Consumption	2,922	10.1	1,514	9.8
Defence	7,317	25.3	3,652	23.7
Transfer Payments	5,270	18.2	3,051	19.8
Investments	2,118	7.3	1,215	7.9
Debt Service	11,773	40.8	6,461	41.9
Reserves	1,143	4.0	543	3.5

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:

General Share Index	99.65	0.01%
Non-Bank Index	103.83	+0.38%
Arrangement	97.73	-0.16%
Insurance	104.58	+0.18%
Commerce, Services	103.39	+0.87%
Real Estate	111.53	+0.65%
Investment Cos.	104.65	-0.17%
Industrials	102.25	+0.39%
Textiles	103.80	-0.60%
Metals	99.49	-0.18%
Electronics	98.93	-0.23%
Chemicals	103.95	+1.62%
Industrial Invst.	101.54	-0.47%
General Bond Index	98.75	-0.52
Index-linked Bonds	98.22	-0.54
Fully-linked	99.79	-0.29
Partially-linked	98.82	-0.65
Dollar-linked Bonds	96.98	-0.48
Short-term 0-2 yrs	98.66	-0.63
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	99.11	-0.58
Long-term 5+ yrs	97.86	-0.15

Turnovers:

Shares – total	NIS 4,021,900
Arrangement	NIS 1,661,800
Non-bank	NIS 2,460,100
Bonds – total	NIS 4,718,100
Index-linked	NIS 3,064,500
Dollar-linked	NIS 1,652,800
Treasury Bills	NIS 2,548,200

Share Movements:

Advances	139	(156)
of which 5%+	30	(33)
"buyers only"	4	(14)
Declines	144	(120)
of which 5%–	13	(12)
"sellers only"	7	(2)
Unchanged	116	(112)
Trading Halt	46	(48)

Bond Market Trends:

Index-linked	
3% fully-linked	Rises to 1%, falls to 3%
4.25% fully-linked	Sight rises and falls to 3%
80% linked	Mainly falls to 2%
90% linked	Mainly falls to 2.5%
Double-linked	—
Dollar-linked	not traded
Admon	Falls up to 1%
Rimon	Falls to 2%
Gilboa	Fluctuations up to 1%
For. Curr. denominated Treasury Bills (monthly yield)	Mainly rises up to 1%
	2.03 to 2.31%

Arrangement yields:

IDB ord.	14.05%
Union 0.1	14.16%
Discount A	14.01%
Mizrahi r.	14.13%
Hapoalim r.	13.99%
General A	14.04%
Leumi stock	13.97%
Fin. Trade 1	13.96%

SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume '000NIS	% change
Commercial Banks			
(not part of "arrangement")			
Maritime 1	750	525	–
First Int'l	2500	1555	–
FIBI	2450	1853	-2.0
Commercial Banks			
(part of "arrangement")			
IDB r	74500	430	-0.2
Union 0.1	55300	186	-0.2
Discount	95200	44	+0.1
Mizrahi	30600	503	—
Hapoalim r	50680	849	-0.1
General A	129410	9	—
Leumi 0.1	32220	1115	-0.2
Fin. Trade	42750	1	+2.3
Mortgage Banks			
Leumi Mort. r	3375	77	—
Dev. Mort.	854	624	-0.9
Mishkan r	1770	193	+5.4
Tefahot r	10700	4	+0.7
Merav r	1603	480	-2.9
Financial Institutions			
Agric C	24500	–	—
Ind. Dev. DD	no trading		
Clal Leasing 0.1	4669	35	+0.2
Insurance			
Ararat 0.1 r	2885	15	—
Hassneh r	2180	3739	+0.9
Phoenix 0.1	1210	345	-2.0
Hamishmar	4940	10	+2.9
Menorah 1	5740	–	—
Saher r	2598	38	-0.1
Zion Hold. 1	7290	35	+0.1
Trade & Services			
Meir Ezra	3989	20	—
Supersol 2	3900	286	+1
Delek r	3750	1543	—
Lighterage	8560	3	—
Cold Storage	770	206	-2.5
Dan Hotels	3550	180	-2.2
Yarden Hotel	1885	2	—
Hilon 1	5000	–	–
Team 1	1460	150	—
Real Estate, Building and Agriculture			
Azorim	2770	1388	–
Elion	950	1065	-1.3
Africa Isr. 0.1	31400	51	+0.3
Denkner	3000	147	+3.1
Prop. & Bldg.	4000	950	–
Bayside 0.1	6615	34	-1.6
ILDC r	27480	315	+3.1
Rassco r	2150	299	+10.7
Mehadrin	11501	138	+2.1
Hadarim	1910	1002	-1.5
Industrials			
Dubek b	2355	101	—
Pri-Ze 1	4065	420	+2.6
Sunfrost	5335	201	+0.1
Elite	9750	31	-2.5
Adgar	535	300	+5.0
Argaman r	4250	19	-3.2
Delta G 1	3201	81	-0.6
Maquette 1	17550	25	-10.0
Eagle 1	9624	27	+0.6
Polgat 0.1	7490	285	—
Schoellerina	9100	150	–
Rogosin	2772	419	+3.7
Urdan 0.1 r	12200	172	-0.4
Is. Can Co. 1	760	2085	-1.7
Zion Cables	1932	319	—
Pecker Steel	3602	—	+0.1
Elbit 3 r	420000	8	-0.5
Elron	395500	3	–
Arit	35500	14	—
Clal Electronics	2500	1108	–
Spectronix 1	1522	174	—
T.A.T. 1	3160	59	-4.9
Ackerstein 1	1030	603	+3.0
Agan 5	14800	3	+2.1
Alliance	735	127	-2.0
Dexter	2800	13	–
Fertilisers	10231	28	+9.9
Haifa Chem.	940	4897	+6.2
Teva r	48800	92	-0.3
Dead Sea r	12630	296	–
Petrochem.	320	13562	+2.2
Neca Chem.	3600	73	+6.0
Frutarom	6740	132	+6.0
Hadera Paper	129100	34	–
Central Trade	5315	524	–
Koor p	4040000	–	+1
Clal Inds.	1202	5513	-0.8
Investment Companies			
IDB Dev. r	2945	1982	—
Ellern	1770	315	+1.1
Afik 1	625	485	-1.6
Gahelet	1354	76	+3.0
Israel Corp. 1	3475	415	—
Wolfson 1 r	69500	1	+1
Hapoalim Inv.	4000	385	-3.4
Leumi Invest.	3885	145	–
Discount Invest.	3950	2399	-0.1
Mizrahi Invest.	7488	36	-5.5
Clal 10	1985	950	–
Landeco 0.1	6500	12	–
Pama 0.1	6200	129	+1.5
Oil Exploration			
Paz Oil Expl.	10780	115	-0.2
J.O.E.L.	1342	1321	—

Abbreviations:
s.o. sellers only b bearer
b.o. buyers only r registered

FINANCIAL ISRAEL

Israel Money Markets

20 January 1986

SHEKEL INTEREST RATES

PRIME BORROWING RATE: 2½% per moh **Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)**

	LAST UPDATED	TAPAS	PAKAM 7-DAY	PAKAM 30-DAY
LEUMI	15.1	12–28%	13–25%	12–24%
HAPOALIM	9.1	15–25%	20–25%	21–26%
DISCOUNT	9.1	14–25.5%	15–26%	16–27%
MIZRAHI	9.1	12–19%	12–24%	12–24%
FIRST INT'L	9.1	16–30%	20–26%	26–28%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.
(Tapas: demand deposit paying daily interest.
Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

PATAH — FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (as of January 15)

	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD	—	—	—
STG	11.875	11.875	11.750
DMK	4.000	4.000	4.125
SFR	3.500	3.500	3.500
YEN	5.125	5.000	4.875

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

COUNTRY	CURRENCY		CHEQUES AND TRANSACTIONS Purchase	CHEQUES AND TRANSACTIONS Sale	BANKNOTES Purchase	BANKNOTES Sale	BANK OF ISRAEL Representative Rates
U.S.A.	DOLLAR	1	1.4738	1.4922	1.45	1.52	1.4836
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	1	2.1052	2.1316	2.07	2.17	2.1189
GERMANY	MARK	1	.5961	.6035	.59	.61	.5998
FRANCE	FRANC	1	.1943	.1967	.19	.20	.1956
HOLLAND	GULDEN	1	.5290	.5356	.52	.55	.5326
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	1	.7030	.7118	.69	.73	.7073
SWEDEN	KRONA	1	.1928	.1952	.19	.20	.1939
NORWAY	KRONE	1	.1937	.1961	.19	.20	.1951
DENMARK	KRONE	1	.1629	.1650	.16	.17	.1640
FINLAND	MARK	1	.2701	.2734	.27	.28	.2719
CANADA	DOLLAR	1	1.0508	1.0640	1.03	1.08	1.0578
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	1	1.0287	1.0416	.97	1.07	1.0356
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND	1	.6426	.6506	.50	.55	.6465
BELGIUM	FRANC	10	.2880	.2916	.28	.30	.2938
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	10	.8470	.8576	.83	.87	.8526
ITALY	LIRE	1000	.8741	.8851	.86	.91	.8803
JAPAN	YEN	100	.7264	.7354	.72	.74	.7316
JORDAN	DINAR	1	—	—	3.94	4.19	3.9538
EGYPT	POUND	1	—	—	.83	.88	.8672

(Supplied by Bank Leumi Leisrael)

European Financial Markets

Precious Metals

GOLD:	LONDON	A.M. FIX	353.25	P.M. FIX	351.00
	PARIS	NOON FIX	354.45	ZURICH P.M.	350.25
SILVER:	LONDON	FIX	609.45		
PLATINUM:	LONDON	P.M.	367.50		
PALLADIUM:	LONDON	P.M.	103.75		

FOREIGN CURRENCY CROSS RATES (London 15.30GMT)
Forward Rates

	SPOT	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
POUND STERLING	1.4170/80	172/167	341/336	595/580
DEUTSCHE MARK	2.4705/15	216/211	426/421	840/825
SWISS FRANC	2.0952/62	215/205	420/405	830/800
DUTCH GULDEN	2.7810/20	170/160	340/330	685/655
FRENCH FRANC	7.5700/50	725/800	1440/1540	2200/2400
JAPANESE YEN	202.50/60	75/68	168/158	365/335
ITALIAN LIRA	1681.5/3.0	365/405	685/735	1150/1250
BELGIAN FRANC	50.47/52	27/33	43/53	53/68
HONGKONG DOLLAR	7.8090/00	400/370	675/625	1350/750
S.AFRICAN RAND	0.4350/80	50/40	80/65	155/115
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.4000/10	73/78	133/143	250/270
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	0.6982/92	175/171	318/313	520/610
SWEDISH KRONA	7.6425/25	850/885	1385/1420	2165/2260
NORWEGIAN KRONE	7.5900/00	875/910	1750/1810	3440/3535
DANISH KRONE	9.0500/00	35/95	75/185	75/285

Formula for determining forward rates:
high/low (eg. 220/210) — Deduct from spot price.
low/high (eg. 210/220) — add to spot price.

New York Financial Markets

WALL STREET Closing Prices

Dow Jones Indices

IND	1,529.13	-7.57
TRANS	715.81	-0.83
UTILS	172.34	-0.41
NYSE COMP	119.86	-0.48
NASDAQ COMP	329.53	-1.19
S-P 100 INDEX	201.33	-1.02
S-P COMP	207.53	-0.90
AMEX INDEX	246.16	-0.52

NYSE Highest Volume

MER LYNCH	39⅞	-1½
IBM	149½	-¾
ATT	22¾	-⅛
US STEEL	24¾	-⅛
MOBIL	30⅜	+⅛
MESA PETE	2⅝	-⅛
PFIZER	49⅛	-⅞
OXY PETE	28¾	-¼

Statistics

NYSE	VOL. 84,890,036	STOCKS UP 644	DOWN 923
NASDAQ	VOL. 112,835,400	STOCKS UP 1,187	DOWN 763

Comment

WALL STREET STOCKS LOWER IN TRADING: The stock market was sharply lower in slow trading.

Analysts said some investors were disappointed that the weekend meeting of the Group of Five Nations ended without an announcement of specific steps to lower interest rates.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was off 10 points to 1527. Declines led advances by a three-two margin on volume of 79 million shares. The volume was slow, reflecting the closing of banks and government offices for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Merrill Lynch led the actives, up 1½ to 39⅞.

ISRAELI STOCKS Traded in New York:

NYSE and ASE

	Last	Prov. Close	High	Low	Vol ('00s)
Alliance	0	1⅛	–	–	–
Am Isr Pap	8⅜	8¼	8⅜	8⅛	3
Ampal	2⅛	2¼	2⅛	2⅛	47
Elscint	3⅝	3¾	3¾	3⅝	69
Etz Lavud	9⅝	9¾	9¾	9⅝	20
Laser Inds	11	11½	11½	10⅞	149

Over the counter

	last	bid	ask		last	bid	ask
Bank Leumi	—	20½	22½	Interpharm	—	4¼	4¾
Elbit	8¼	8¼	8⅜	Optrotech	12	11¾	12¼
ECI Tel.	7¼	7¼	8	Roda	—	9¼	9¾
Elron	8	8	8½	Scitex	8	7½	8
Fibronics	15¾	15½	15⅞	Taro-vit	—	3¼	3½
IDB Bank	—	46	50	Tevapharm	—	3½	3⅝
IIS	5	5	5¼	SPI	6¾	6¾	7⅛

U.S. Money Rates

Prime 9.50%; Broker 9.00%; NY Euros 3 months. 8⅛–8⅜; Fed Funds last 7⅞%.

New York Foreign Exchange

	DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN
YESTERDAY'S CLOSING	2.4640/50	2.0505/25	1.4370/80	2.0220/30	1.4000/05
OPENING	2.4730/40	2.0575/85	1.4225/35	2.0260/70	1.4004/09
LATEST	2.4650/70	2.0850/75	1.4135/50	2.0190/00	1.4030/35

Comment

DOLLAR RECOVERS SLIGHTLY IN NORTH AMERICA: The dollar recovered slightly after it fell to a day's low of DM 2.4490 because of speculative buying of foreign currency futures at the IMM. Dealers said thin trading conditions exaggerated the move. Meanwhile, sterling faced unremitting selling pressure on the heels of sharp declines in oil prices. The pound dropped to a record low of DM 3.47.

Overseas financial data – from Reuters exclsively to The Jerusalem Post.



THE ISRAEL ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS REVIEW 1985

The Israel Economic and Business Review is the most comprehensive source of economic and commercial information and analysis of the Israeli economy available in English.

Edited and published jointly by The Jerusalem Post and The Israel Economist, the book supplies information and in-depth analysis of economic developments and commercial and financial trends of the year.

Introduction by Prof. Zvi Sussman: Special feature essays include analysis of the military-industrial complex, the economy of the West Bank and Gaza and labor trends.

Sectorial analyses cover both the industrial and service sectors in detail. These are followed by extensive data tables and other informative appendices which make the Review an indispensible reference manual for both individuals and organizations with commercial and financial interests in Israel.

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Waiting for Hussein

WHAT IT WAS precisely that the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Richard Murphy, having held a conversation with King Hussein in London on Saturday, reported to Premier Shimon Peres at The Hague the following day, is not common knowledge. It is, however, well known that the Reagan administration views the month of February as crucial in getting the Jordan-Israel "peace process" underway before it is too late.

American officials strongly suspect that, unless the opportunity is grabbed next month, Mr. Peres will be unable, in the time left for him as premier, to engineer a meaningful enough diplomatic change that could become irreversible by October, when Yitzhak Shamir takes over the reins of governance.

Disagreeable as the prospect of the Alignment carrying out the rotation agreement with the Likud appears in Washington, in Amman it is treated with undisguised alarm. King Hussein's nightmare is said to be that, under Premier Shamir, Ariel Sharon will become a moving force in quickly settling the West Bank and in driving West Bankers east – thus achieving his long cherished aim of destroying the Hashemite rule in Jordan.

If this should happen, the responsibility, in Jordanian eyes, would fall squarely on – Premier Peres. He has disappointed the hopes pinned on him. He cannot deliver the goods, he has not fulfilled his promises.

What goods? What promises? In his UN address three months ago Mr. Peres sought to meet King Hussein at least part of the way. Israel, he said, would enter into direct peace negotiations, under a suitably supportive international forum, with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation not including terror-prone PLO officials. This was not a carbon-copy of the Jordanian diplomatic programme, so it was not expected that King Hussein would at once endorse it and proceed to the negotiating table.

But what has Hussein in the meantime done to bring on an open dialogue with Israel? To this day he refuses to disengage himself from the PLO, even after repeated rejections by his "moderate" friend Yasser Arafat to accept the minimal conditions set by the king for allowing him a share in the joint delegation: recognition of Israel, endorsement of 242 and 338, and abstention from terrorism for the duration of the talks.

No less importantly, he has done absolutely nothing to prepare his people for the possibility of a reversal in Jordan's policy towards Israel. Since he is not an Anwar Sadat, who could spring almost any surprise he wished on the Egyptians, Hussein's inaction lends itself to the interpretation that his mind is not really set on peace. It is, indeed, perfectly natural that it should be grist to the mills of those in Israel, like the leader of the Likud, who would rather keep the status quo.

Israelis do not, most of them, read the Jordanian press, all of which, unlike Egypt's, is under the government's thumb. But many among them do watch Jordan's government-controlled television. And what they have long ago discovered is that, while in speaking Hebrew, JTV maintains at least a semblance of respect for the truth and some interest in peace, its English, let alone its Arabic, programmes, which more faithfully reflect the official line, are agencies for the dissemination of monstrous anti-Israel and even anti-Semitic warmongering propaganda, operating on the level of integrity of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* if not lower.

An article in this newspaper two weeks ago exposing the anti-peace character of the Jordanian state propaganda, drew a response last week from the Amman newspaper *Al-Sha'ab*. Not only was a large section of the *Post* article quoted, but a rebuttal of its argument was attempted.

The attempted rebuttal amounted to full confirmation. The "Arab-Zionist" conflict, author Tarek Muzrawa wrote, is a dispute over the same tract of land, whose only permissible name is Falastin. Reconciliation is, by implication, impossible: the issue, as the author put it, is "They or we."

Mr. Peres has on several occasions commended King Hussein as a man of peace. So he may be; but his own state media portray him as a monarch bent not on Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories, but on its destruction. Hussein may be eager to set in motion a process of negotiation with the present government, under Mr. Peres. But he goes about it in the strangest way possible.

THE QUEST FOR PEACE

YITZHAK SHAMIR
Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

AFTER many months of debate and differences on principle and tactics, we succeeded – by a process of conciliation – in reaching an agreed formula on the issue of Taba. The main feature of the policy is that Taba is not a problem on its own, but part of a package deal that should lead to normal relations between us and Egypt in accordance with the original peace treaty between the two countries.

It is now nearly seven years since that treaty came into effect. We, who initiated the peace process and made great sacrifices for peace, have fulfilled every commitment that we undertook in the peace treaty. The ball is in Egypt's court.

The agreement we reached on Taba in our cabinet deals not only with the conciliation-arbitration procedure but requires Egypt now to fulfill the conditions of the peace treaty, many of which were never acted upon and some of which were actually violated.

For example, one of the clauses of the peace treaty calls for an end to hostile propaganda in the Egyptian media. I regret to say that the Egyptian media continue to be extremely hostile to Israel and in recent days falsely accused us of acting against the Christians and Moslems. In fact, there has been no change in the Egyptian media since the days of Nasser. All of us know that in Egypt the government has – to say the least – great influence on the media.

Generally, we seek symmetry in media treatment. The Egyptian charge d'affaires in Israel has free access to the media of Israel. He appears on television. He is interviewed by our press. His statements are published. On the other hand, our ambassador in Cairo has never had the opportunity to say one word to the Egyptian people through their media.

In such circumstances one cannot expect a spirit of peace to evolve among the people of Egypt, and the hostility continues. I once suggested to President Sadat that what is needed in Egypt is a doctrine of peace, which will be communicated and taught at all levels in the nation.

Similarly, Egypt now must show a readiness to put into effect the many agreements we signed in regard to trade and tourism, cultural exchanges, and scientific and agricultural cooperation. And, of course, the Egyptian ambassador must be returned to Israel at the earliest opportunity. The presence of the ambassador in Israel is not an act of special grace but a basic obligation in terms of the peace treaty.

That treaty also specifically prohibits Egypt from supporting and cooperating with the terrorist organizations. Their recent declarations and actions in that regard have been violations of the peace treaty.

THUS, our problem with Egypt is not Taba – that is a symptom and an excuse. The problem is the overall relationship between the two countries. We know from experience that the solution to the Taba dispute will not automatically remove all the other difficulties, but this package is designed to solve the Taba problem and all outstanding aspects of our relationship with Egypt.

This Taba agreement is further proof that we are faithful to our international commitments and we are entitled to ask the same from the other parties to those commitments.

Any progress towards improving our peaceful relations with Egypt could be an example for other Arab countries – and especially for Jordan. The government of national unity decided, at the very beginning of its term, to invite the king of Jordan to direct negotiations without any preconditions. We are still waiting for his positive response.

There has been a consensus in Israel for many years – not only in this government – that the only way to reach agreement is by direct negotiations. I fully agree with the formulation of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who said: "The name of the game is direct negotiations."

Of course, it does not mean that such negotiations will produce the solution immediately. Direct negotiations provide the opportunity for the two parties to work together, to try to convince each other. And the main advantage is that each side knows that no solution can be imposed from above or from outside. We hope that King Hussein will understand this and will join us at the negotiating table. For the present, however, we don't see any positive moves.

The king's romance with Syria on the one hand and the PLO on the other is certainly not a positive development. The PLO does not want peace and, therefore, any cooperation with it is an obstacle to peace.

We are also worried by a sharp increase in the hostile anti-Israel tone in the Jordanian press, which routinely describes us as the Zionist enemy. In the last few days, they have published false charges that the Zionists plan to take over al-Aqsa and have lauded the Ras Burka killer as a hero who expressed the conscience of the Egyptian people.

So far King Hussein has not accepted the principle of direct negotiations. Instead, he speaks about an international peace conference with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council, all the neighbouring Arab states, and the PLO. It is clear that such a conference would not serve the cause of peace. It would be used as a platform for extremist propaganda against Israel, and its purpose would be to decide on an imposed solution against us.

We reject the idea of an international conference, and the view of the United States is identical to ours in this regard. Obviously, we will never accept any attempt to impose a decision about our future. We, and we alone, are the masters of our destiny.

OUR RELATIONSHIP with the United States is better than at any time before. We have reached a stage of shared perceptions and common objectives.

The U.S. recognizes the importance to the free world's global strategic interests in the Middle East of a strong Israel, and understands that a strong Israel means an economically sound Israel. The Free-Trade-Area agreement and our strategic cooperation are the pillars of our close relationship.

We applaud its stand in regard to international terrorism directed by the PLO in all its forms and sponsored by some Arab countries like Libya and Syria. On this subject there are no differences between us and the U.S. Israel has given the world an example of a strong stand and consistent war against this scourge. By and large the U.S. has now accepted our viewpoint and is leading the battle against terrorism. We naturally offer all our experience and help in the struggle against this evil.

But our relationship with the U.S. is nowadays such that we can also disagree without disrupting the relationship. And we have disagreements. At present, we strongly disagree with the proposal that the U.S. supply sophisticated military equipment to Jordan. We are convinced this would be a grave mistake. Jordan does not need F-16 planes for its internal security, to bolster the regime or to stop riots. Jordan does not need such arms for defence against Syria, nor against any other neighbouring Arab country. Hussein's rapprochement with Syria has eliminated or reduced that need. The Jordanians have nothing to fear from Israel if their aim is to live in peace with us. Therefore, the only conclusion one can reach is that those arms are intended for eventual use against us.

Right now our border with Syria is the most dangerous frontier. The Syrians are arming themselves to the teeth with sophisticated Soviet military equipment; and they dream of a time when they will achieve strategic parity with Israel, by which they mean military superiority over Israel. I am confident that they will never achieve their objectives. Israel's military capacity and strength is the best deterrent against the aggressive intentions of the Syrian dictatorship.

ANOTHER major goal of our foreing policy is to fight against the efforts of our enemies to isolate Israel in the international community. With that in view, we are slowly but surely renewing and improving our contacts in Africa, in Asia and even in Eastern Europe. In recent years there has been some progress. It is not very spectacular, but the progress has been constant. In the last few years we have renewed diplomatic relations with some African countries and I hope that soon we will be able to report important news in that regard.

I know that there have been reports all over the world that the Soviet Union is about to renew diplomatic relations with Israel and to permit increased emigration of Jews. Unfortunately, we have seen no evidence to substantiate these statements and the expectations that they raise. Despite the rumours and predictions, there is no sign from the Soviet Union that they intend to change their attitude. In fact, in recent weeks they have been assuring many Arab governments that this is not their intention.

There has been speculation that the Soviet Union would agree to permit Jewish emigration if Israel would agree to changes in regard to its security and future. This concept is entirely rejected by us. And it would, I am sure, be rejected by the Soviet Jews themselves. We will not tolerate a situation in which Jews are held hostage, or used as pawns, in order to extract concessions from Israel of a political or strategic nature. The right of Jews to go to Eretz Israel is a basic human right that cannot be denied to them.

We are grateful to the president of the United States and the secretary of state for their direct intervention on behalf of Soviet Jewry in their meetings with Soviet leaders, including the recent Geneva summit. We hope that this will have an impact on Soviet policy.

The president prefers to deal with the problem by quiet diplomacy. That is his prerogative. But this policy does not limit the Jewish people in its actions. On the basis of our experience, we believe that we must engage in a public struggle on behalf of our brethren in the Soviet Union. Silence is the enemy of our cause.

While there is no evidence of change in the Soviet Union, there have been positive and encouraging developments in relations with some countries of the Eastern Bloc, notably Poland.

And lastly, there is an added Jewish dimension in the vision and the mission of the leaders of this nation. The Jewish dimension is always at the top of our priorities, because if there is a strong, united and healthy Jewish people, Israel will feel better and more secure, and the chances of progress in every field, including the peace process, will be vastly improved.

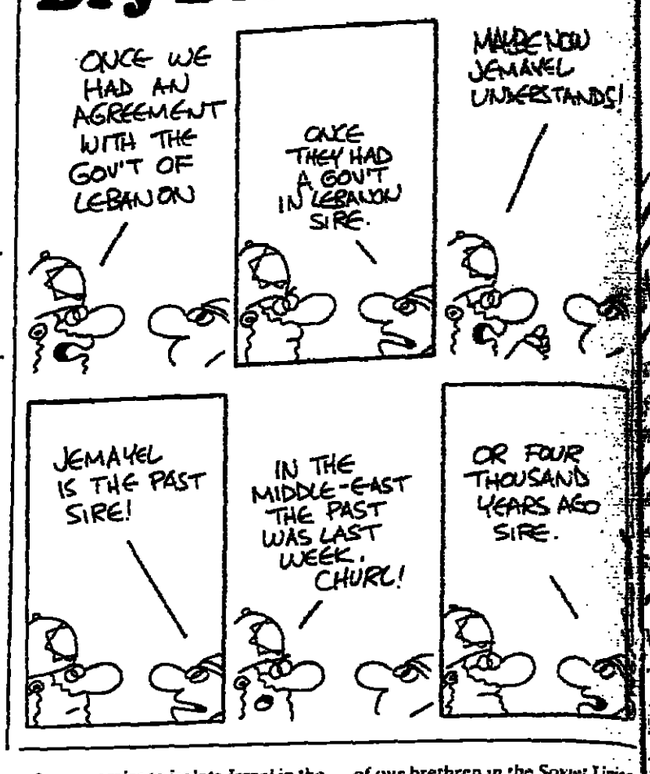
NEXT TO PEACE and security, Israel's greatest need is for people. Large numbers of people. We need more Jews in this country. We have room for millions more. I would remind you of the great debates in the Twenties and Thirties over the absorptive capacity of Palestine. The question was put then in British colonial circles: How many more Jews could come into the land before we reach saturation point? One senior official suggested that Palestine was already full and there was no room to "swing a cat." I shall say no more!

At the time there were 400,000 Jews in Eretz Israel. When we declared the state in 1948, there were 600,000. Today, *baruch hashem*, there are 3.6 million Jews in this land. In 1948, we were 6 per cent of world Jewry. Today we are 27 per cent. There is a whole world in these statistics.

Israel is not only a country for refugees from areas of distress. We need Jews from the free world, who will come here with their know-how, with their experience, with their capital, with their free spirit, with their skills and who will make an outstanding contribution to the progress and development of this nation in the last part of the 20th century and beyond.

Excerpted from an address to the International Colloquium on the Jewish Press at the Van Leer Institute last week.

Dry Bones



LIVING STANDARDS

(Continued from Page One)

Government and Bank of Israel officials do not foresee any improvement in the employment situation. Unemployment is expected to rise from 6.9 per cent in 1985 to 7.4 per cent this year.

Imports and exports are to rise by about 7 per cent this year, according to the National Budget. Due to a drop in interest payments on foreign loans, lower oil prices and an increase in grants from abroad, a surplus of some $600 million in the balance of payments is expected by the end of the year.

Talking to reporters on the eve of the budget presentation to the Knesset, Treasury officials stressed the importance of fiscal restraint. They pointed out that the last nine months have proven that the government is able to stay within budget limits. They emphasized that business firms or even entire sectors in financial trouble should not look to the Treasury to bail them out.

Treasury Director-General Emmanuel Sharon said that in the coming months there will be no change in the rate of exchange. "As long as exports maintain their present level of profitability, there will be no need for such a change," he said.

Concerning rumours of a pending tax on financial assets, Sharon admitted that the Treasury was weighing such a proposal but stressed that any decision was far in the future. He added that all proposals only refer to future assets, and that there was no intention of taxing existing wealth.

On the brighter side the budget includes a reserve set aside to finance a reduction in income tax. In addition, there are no plans to raise the travel tax or to impose another tax on private cars.

TOUGH STEPS

(Continued from Page One)

afternoon.

Moda'i replied by expressing regret that his ministerial colleagues had not found it necessary to take part in the budget debate. And he apologized to the House in their name.

The wage structure in the public sector would be re-examined in the course of the year, Moda'i said. The government and the Histadrut had recently appointed a public committee to suggest reforms, and he expressed the hope that the recommendations would be submitted during fiscal 1986 so conclusions could be drawn and applied in the next fiscal year.

Moda'i said that the implementation of the budget would entail the abolition of 700 posts in ministries and government enterprises. Natural attrition, voluntary resignation, and dismissals would be involved.

An even greater number of jobs – about 3,000 – would be eliminated in the local authorites, the school system, and the defence establishment, the minister said.

Moda'i said that in 1986 the government would build the infrastructure for the future growth of the economy.

The most important contribution, he said would be stability.

The second most important contribution to growth would be the beginning of reduction in government intervention in the capital market, the minister said.

About 20 Knesset members stayed in the chamber until Moda'i finished speaking.

Refusenik gets 4 years sentence

MOSCOW (AFP). – A Soviet Jew who has been refused permission to leave for Israel for the past 10 years has been sentenced to four years in a strict regime labour camp after being found guilty of spreading anti-Soviet propaganda, dissident sources said yesterday.

Eduard Gudava was arrested by the KGB in November. His brother is also being held and his mother was arrested on the first day of his trial in Tblisi, Georgia.

READERS' LETTERS

CONSERVATIVE CONVERT

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, – The news item of January 3 under the heading, "Interior Ministry stymies Reform convert" contains a number of errors of fact; errors due not to your reporter, but to the officials who misinformed him. The aide to Dr. Burg who told your reporter that, when Dr. Burg, headed the Ministry of Interior, "all converts to Judaism had been accepted," either knew not whereof he spoke or, what is worse, deliberately diverged from the truth.

In the mid-Seventies when Dr. Burg was the minister of interior, it was standard practice of the officials of his ministry, when requested to register someone as a Jew on the basis of a certificate of conversion perfomed abroad, to direct such a person to the rabbinate. Such, at least, was the experience of the young couple of immigrants who came to me with the following story.

Following the young lady's conversion *kedat ukedin*, performed by a Conservative *beit din* in Buenos Aires, the young lady was married to a Jew and came on aliya with her husband about a month after their marriage. At Lod, she was advised by an official of the Jewish Agency to go to the office of the Ministry of Interior to be registered as a Jew. In Jerusalem, she was informed by an official that she had to go to the rabbinate. When she indicated, in her answer to the rabbi at the rabbinate that she had been converted by a Conservative *beit din* and that she had been married by a Conservative rabbi, the rabbinate hatched an elaborate ruse whereby she was "reconverted" and "remarried." (I deliberately omit the sordid details of what was nothing less than a fraud perpetrated in the name of Halacha.)

If the instance described above is any evidence, and I believe it is, then it may well be presumed that such was indeed the standard operating procedure of the Ministry of Interior when it was in charge of Dr. Burg. Apparently, the present minister of interior is simply continuing the practice of his predecessor in that office. How Rabbi Peretz's spokesman can maintain that "the ministry does not act in contravention of the law" is beyond me.

The current case of the Reform convert throws some much needed light on the whole "Who is a Jew?" issue. Actually, conversions performed by non-Orthodox rabbis abroad have been rejected out of hand by collusion between the Ministry of Interior and the rabbinate. Why then the need for legislation to change the Law of Return? The answer: to do legally what is being done illegally. Can either the former or the present minister of interior point to a single certificate of conversion issued by non-Orthodox rabbis abroad that has been accepted here as the present law requires?

Rabbi THEODORE FRIEDMAN
(Former President of the Rabbinical Assembly)

Jerusalem.

POOR ART EXHIBITION

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, – Meir Ronnen is to be commended for his courageous attack on the exhibition which inaugurated the Ayala Zacks-Abramov Pavilion of Israeli Art at the Israel Museum. Instead of a straightforward presentation of the best work produced here from the '20s to the present, it is based on an ill-conceived notion which led to a misbegotten show.

Ronnen acknowledges that there are "many gems" in it, and what especially pleases me, as probably the first writer to present the Israeli artists of the '20s and '30s in American art magazines, is his genial confession that, if he were allowed to take home some painting in the show, he would choose a work by Rubin, Paldi, Gutman, Litvinovsky...all among those artists.

Since Ronnen is well-disposed toward the avant-garde, that choice is also his commentary on the contemporary work in the exhibition.

WILLIAM SCHACK

Jerusalem.

CHRISTMAS EVE ON CBS-TV

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, – Like many other Christians sympathetic to Israel, I look forward with special interest to Christmas Eve news broadcasts from Bethlehem. I was therefore chagrined to see that CBS-TV's man in Bethlehem this Christmas Eve was that veteran warrior against Israel, Bob Simon. Although Simon has been away from Israel for the last few years, he appears to have lost little of his hostility towards Zion and none of his skills at misrepresentation.

Simon depicted the Christians of Bethlehem as caught "between a Moslem majority and Israeli authority," and described "the soldiers of Israel" ranged against "the soldiers of Christ." He warned that, although the conflict between these Israelis and the Arabs might seem "parochial" in relation to Christian sacred history, Americans should remember how much death and destruction had been "caused" in 1985 by it: the TWA hijacking; the Achille Lauro hijacking; the deaths of 250 American soldiers flying home from Sinai, etc.

The message was clear: if only Israel did not exist, crime and sin would disappear from the world and we could all make ready to walk the streets of the Heavenly City. Simon's perverted form of Christian zeal (if indeed he is a Christian) seems to derive mainly from that unfortunate text in Matthew (X:34): "I came not to bring peace, but a sword." It's not the best message for Christmas Eve.

FRANCIS NEWMAN

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